Hafa Adai!

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Liang, Wang lead Agape 's Class of 2019. PAGE 2
10 airlines set summer schedules. PAGE 8

75¢

Report: American Sinopan's bid for H2-B workers denied

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

In 2017, American Sinopan LLC said it would build a garden-themed hotel in Tanapag and was vocal about its plans to bring the Hilton brand to Saipan. However, the construction project was plagued with CW and workforce issues and another labor woe struck early this week.

An online story on the website Law360 dated May 20 said that American Sinopan's application to hire 620 H2-B workers to build its Saipan hotel had been denied by the Board of Alien Labor Certification Appeals.

BALCA is the appellate body that reviews appeals on

See REPORT on Page 4

A tiny shrine with flowers and candles was erected yesterday at the site where sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk were last seen waiting for a school bus on As Teo Drive corner Santa Lourdes Road in As Teo in the morning of May 25, 2011. The mysterious disappearance of the Luhk sisters enters its 8th year anniversary this Saturday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

8 years since Luhk sisters disappeared

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The mysterious disappearance of sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk will mark its eight year this Saturday, with still no trace on their whereabouts. In that time, the Federal Bureau of Investigation twice issued altered pictures of the sisters to show how they would possibly look now if they are still alive. Still nothing has turned up.

When asked for an update on their investigation, FBI spokesperson Michele Ernst

See LUHK on Page 4

The area surrounding the Island Massage Club in Chalan Kanoa, including neighboring establishments, were shut down at 1pm yesterday by the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services' Arson Investigation Unit following a fire that destroyed the massage establishment.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Fire engulfs massage place

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A massage business in Chalan Kanoa above Winchell's was engulfed in flames yesterday but Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel were able to confine the fire and it did not spread to nearby establishments.

No one was injured but DFEMS has yet to determine the fire's cause.

According to DFEMS spokesman Derek Gersonde, the fire at the Island Massage Club in Susupe above Winchell's and across the Kanoa Resort Saipan was reported at around 11:50am and first responder units arrived at the scene at 11:53am.

See FIRE on Page 4

INSTEAD OF RELOCATING

PSS eyes rebuilding Hopwood

» Estimated $24M in FEMA funds to be used

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Public School System is now thinking of just rebuilding the Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School instead of relocating the entire campus after it was completely destroyed by Super Typhoon Yutu in October last year.

PSS informed the House Ways and Means Committee during their annual budget hearing last Monday morning that they are expecting an estimated $24 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and they are looking to use all of that to rebuild Hopwood.

Education Commissioner

See PSS on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL

The International Economic Development Council has received a $353,000 grant to help the CNMI.

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ASIA

The Philippine president's allies won a majority of the 12 Senate seats at stake in the midterms.

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LIFE & STYLE

Disney is taking another shot at "Aladdin," this time in live-action. The film opens Friday.

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Local

Liang, Wang lead Agape's Class of 2019

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Agape Christian School valedictorian said she wants to travel the world as an English teacher while the school's salutatorian said he wants to pursue a master's degree as soon as possible.

Judy Liang, the school's Class of 2019 high school valedictorian, and Peter Wang, the high school salutatorian, both eye the Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina to take up English education and mechanical engineering, respectively.

JUDY LIANG
Valedictorian
High School

PETER WANG
Salutatorian
High School

ELVIRA ZHANG
Valedictorian
Middle School

JASON CAO
Salutatorian
Middle School

"I want to travel the world and not stay in only one place," Liang said in an interview. "I thank God for giving me this chance to study in this school. I am very honored."

Liang wants to purse an education degree in English because she experienced teaching piano and English in Sunday school in her home country of China.

"I believe it is a good career for me, I enjoy being a teacher," she said.

Wang, on the other hand, wants to pursue a master's degree immediately after getting a degree in mechanical engineering.

"I plan to get my master's right after college and find a job later," he said in an interview.

Wang would be going to the Bob Jones University as well, but he said he has yet to decide on a school for his master's degree.

"I like [cars]. I just really like automobiles," he said.

"I thank my teachers…and my classmates, all of them. They all helped me and, without them, I won't be here today," he said.

Both Liang and Wang had 11 classmates this year.

For middle school, the valedictorian honors went to Elvira Zhang while the salutatorian honors went to Jason Cao.

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GO WELL

MPLT looks at its option if LOC request is OK'd

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Using the future interest of the line of credit as guarantee is one of the options being looked at by the Marianas Public Land Trust board, if it gives the Torres administration's the money it needs to enable the CNMI government to address its bond obligations and payment to the NMI Settlement Fund.

This was one of the options that Jason B. Miyashita, managing director of Raymond James Investment Services, and practice business coordinator Amanda Gima presented to the Marianas Public Land Trust board and two CNMI Legislature members—House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) and Rep. Marco T. Peter (R-Saipan)—if they approve the line of credit.

It was Attao who introduced House Bill 21-44 that pledges the amount that MPLT regularly remits to the Commonwealth government's general fund as security if ever a line of credit is extended to the CNMI government. H.B. 21-44 remains pending.

If ever MPLT grants the CNMI government's request, if the CNMI government fails to repay the loan, MPLT can then withhold the remittance of interests to the general fund.

Attao said that having the interests that MPLT remits to the general fund be made the guarantee is one option that the board might consider in approaching the administration's request.

"Just look at all the different angles and see what the best option for MPLT is, to take care of their fiduciary responsibility and not get sued. It only takes one [Northern Mariana descent] to file a lawsuit," Attao said.

He said that he introduced H.B. 21-44 with the understanding that negotiations were already done. "We want to hear from your [legal] counsel, to make sure not laws are violated and your [MPLT board] fiduciary duties are not compromised."

MPLT board chair Martin B. Ada said that the meeting with representatives of Raymond James is for the board to know what the impacts would be if they grant the administration a $7.5 million, $10 million, or $15 million line of credit.

"Today [Wednesday] is the cause impact analysis of the investment side. [Miyashita] just presented the portfolio balancing and optimizer and tomorrow [Thursday] will be the financial side. The board will be meeting with MPLT financial consultant Bruce MacMillan," said Ada, who added that the Miyashita just presented options on where they can get the money for the LOC.

"We're continuing to address this and gather the information, because Jason [Miyashita] is only available today [Wednesday]. We will continue to meet with Bruce [MacMillan] via Skype and discuss about the impact. The trustees need to make an action, whether to approve or disapprove," said Ada. "If we approve, how much is the amount and we will take it from there. Once that is done, we will ask for [Attao] to join us again and discuss the debt service terms, we need more information from the Secretary of Finance and a representative from the Executive Branch to clear things up."

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EXPLORE YOUR WORLD IT&E

Mommy and Me Fun Night tomorrow

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Mommy and Me Fun Night tomorrow evening at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe will have 16 booths, treats, a raffle drawing, and live entertainment. The event is from 6pm to 9pm and is free to the public.

The Mommy and Me Fun Night, which the Office of Youth Affairs is holding in recognition of May 2019 being Women's Health Month, is intended for mothers and their children.

The booths, according to special assistant for the Youth Affairs Office Monique B. Sablan, include Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' mwar mwar making; CNMI Public School System Head Start program's crafting and beading; Stellar Marianas' crown crafting; Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's CNMI Motheread program bookmark making; Community Guidance Center counseling program coloring and puzzle station; Northern Marianas College's disk dunk; Chiku Chiku hair accessories' table raffle; among many more.

There will be raffle drawings throughout the evening with a "special prize" for the first 50 children who complete the event passport.

Live entertainment would be provided by Tanapag Middle School, Francis Nogis, Nate Ada, and the Junior Serenaders, to name a few.

"The event will focus on learning more about available resources in relation to health, wellness, and self-care from our partnering booths," Sablan said in a previous statement, adding that the event is open to all mothers, mother figures, and children of all ages.

The Youth Affairs Office coordinated the event with the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

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Financed at 5.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of $339.36 or $156 per paycheck based on 20% down-payment and 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is $20,361.60.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS WEEK JON PEREZ

Acting Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, back center, joins officials and personnel of the Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality and Department of Lands and Natural Resources in yesterday's proclamation signing declaring May 27 to 31 as Environmental Awareness Week.

REPORT

From Page 1

Program Electronic Review Management denials. PERM issues denials if it finds the company does not meet the standards used in labor certification determination.

The Law360 article stated that American Sinopan had wanted to bring in 620 workers composed of 110 carpenters, 100 electricians, 90 masons, 80 painters, 64 structural iron and steel workers, 60 plumbers, 55 reinforcing iron and rebar workers, 30 construction supervisors, and 30 construction equipment operators.

These workers were supposed to work from April 15, 2019, to April 14, 2020, under the H-2B program, a U.S. immigration program for temporary/seasonal, non-agricultural employment by foreign nationals.

The story quoted Administrative Law Judge Steven B. Berlin as saying that, although American Sinopan nearly overcame some deficiencies, it left out crucial information about its business model, operations, and plan for the future after the resort is built.

This, according to the article, means the company did not prove that the need for the H2-B workers was temporary in nature.

"The central difficulty is that American Sinopan has not described itself adequately to make sense of its business model. …Very few corporations are formed for a short-term, temporary purpose; most people forming corporations intend that the corporation will be financially successful and continue its operations over the long term," the law360 article quotes Berlin as saying in the decision.

He further stated that "for purposes of an H2-B application…it is a sham to convert an ongoing, permanent need for workers into a temporary need."

According to the article, the judge expressed concern about American Sinopan's role as a subsidiary in this undertaking, citing its "ambiguous" business model.

The article quotes Berlin as saying that this ambiguity makes it appear that 'it is just one of the subsidiaries, each formed to do a limited construction project as a domestic corporation outside of China."

"Without being able to understand what business American Sinopan is in, I cannot find that it would have only one-time need for the H-2B workers it is seeking," he added.

American Sinopan LCC is a unit of Hong Kong-based First Sinopan International Ltd.

American Sinopan chief executive officer Ken Lin was not available for comment as he is off-island as of press time.

In an interview with Lin last August 2017, Lin projected construction will be done by 2020 and that operations will generate $14 million worth of hotel tax and $6 million worth of food and beverage tax, which amounts to $20 million that will go to the CNMI yearly.

FIRE

From Page 1

The fire was reportedly contained at around 12:26pm.

Gersonde said that firefighters were able to contain the fire to just the massage establishment so the businesses surrounding the area were not affected.

The establishments right next to the Island Massage Club include Winchell's, Korea House, and Discovery Tours.

DFEMS Arson Investigation Unit personnel later closed down the area; investigation is ongoing.

DFEMS has yet to issue an official statement as of press time about the progress of its investigation.

According to the establishment's owner, a Korean woman who refused to disclose her name, the establishment was still closed when the fire happened and she has no idea what could have started the fire.

Individuals at the scene speculated that it may have been an electrical problem.

Gersonde said that he will release further information about the cause of the fire as soon as they become available.

LUHK

From Page 1

told *Saipan Tribun*e that they will issue a press release in the coming days.

"[The upcoming press release will] provide an update on the FBI efforts to find the Luhk sisters as we approach the eighth anniversary [of their disappearance]," said Ernst in an email.

Saipan Tribune learned yesterday that Elbert Quitugua, the grandfather of the Luhk sisters, and his family are planning to offer a Mass of special intention or remembrance, either at the Sta. Soledad Church in Kagman or at the Kristo Rai Church in Garapan this Saturday.

Saipan Tribune was still trying to obtain comments from Quitugua as of press time.

Yesterday afternoon, a little shrine with candles and flowers has been placed on a gutter near a public school bus shelter along As Teo Drive corner Santa Lourdes Road in As Teo, where the Luhk sisters were last seen in the morning of May 25, 2011. The sisters' house is located just a few meters from the school bus shelter.

Faloma and Maleina were 10 and 9 years old, respectively, at the time of their disappearance. Their mother is currently in the U.S. mainland, while their father was last reported to be in Chuuk.

When the sisters disappeared, a massive monthlong search was conducted by the FBI, Department of Public Safety, other law enforcers, and volunteers on Saipan, but no trace were found of their whereabouts.

In March 2018, police searched a World War II concrete septic tank in Kagman after receiving a tip from an anonymous person that the sisters had been buried there. Searchers could not find any evidence from the tank.

In February 2018, police officers, backed by FBI agents, searched a home in Koblerville in search of the remains of the missing Luhk sisters, but did not find any evidence. The search prompted the family residing in the house to file a court action against authorities.

PSS

From Page 1

Glenn Muña told legislators Monday that, at the moment, it would be more feasible for PSS to rebuild the campus rather than relocate it or rebuild a new one.

In a separate interview, Muña estimates that building a new campus would cost at least $60 million.

"If we were to [build] another school, I am estimating anywhere between $60 million and $80 million for a school to accommodate the number of students at Hopwood," he said.

This school year, Hopwood's student population is roughly 1,000.

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan) pointed out during the budget hearing that the idea of building a new Hopwood campus is more complex than just building a new site. He noted that the current troubles with manpower in the CNMI would effectively prolong the construction of a new campus.

"…That also is our biggest challenge," Muña said, recognizing the lawmaker's concerns. "We all know the timeframe of three to four years is most likely going to extend if we are going to build a new school because of [the] challenge in our workforce."

Muña acknowledges that money would be coming in but he noted that the $24 million is only an estimate and might change. However, the $24 million reported to him by FEMA officials is already inclusive of PSS content, books, tablets, computers, and other educational materials that were also wiped out by Super Typhoon Yutu.

"How much exactly for building damage and content damage, I don't know," Muña said.

The $24-million figure, according to Muña, is the estimated figure that PSS would receive according to FEMA officials who visited about two weeks ago.

IEDC receives $441K disaster recovery grant to aid NMI

» **$441,250 awarded to aid economic recovery efforts in the wake of 2018 typhoons**

The International Economic Development Council is a leading international association for professional economic developers.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The International Economic Development Council, a leading international association for professional economic developers, has received a $353,000 grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to support economic recovery and resiliency efforts in the CNMI.

IEDC will also contribute $88,250, boosting the investment in the recovery efforts to $441,250.

Following the devastating effects of Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu in late 2018, the Trump administration's declared a state of emergency and authorized funds to be allocated to recovery efforts. In February 2019, the administration amended to the declaration to release additional funds for public assistance, hazard mitigation, and other needs assistance.

The EDA grant will be used to assess the Commonwealth's public utility infrastructure and emergency service restoration plans on the islands of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, as well as assist in business retention, expansion, and attraction efforts. IEDC's efforts began on April 4, and will extend through March 31, 2021.

"IEDC stand shoulder to shoulder with the people Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as we work together to lift the local economy back on its feet and more resilient than ever," said IEDC president and chief executive officer Jeffrey A. Finkle. "We greatly value our longstanding successful partnership with the EDA, whose vital support has improved post-disaster conditions on the ground for hundreds of communities while positively impacting countless lives."

"EDA is uniquely positioned to coordinate regional disaster recovery efforts and one of the strongest and most vital partnerships we have in these endeavors is our partnership with IEDC," said U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Dr. John Fleming. "Our work in the Northern Mariana Islands will provide critical technical assistance that will help support the growth of the business community and boost locally-driven disaster resilience efforts."

In response to the increase in disasters, IEDC has developed a program of disaster preparedness and post-disaster economic recovery directed at economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, local business and trade organizations, and other economic recovery stakeholders. ***(PR)***

SNILD passes 2 appropriation bills

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation has approved two appropriation bills to fund several projects and programs for the Third Senatorial District.

House Local Bill 21-1 allocates $195,468.50, while H.L.B. 21-19 sets aside $268,888—both totaling over $400,000.

Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) introduced H.L.B. 21-1; House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) introduced H.L.B. 21-19.

The Commonwealth Development Authority has identified $195,468.50 available for appropriation with SNILD using the money to fund the light installations project along the pathway from the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort to the intersection of Lalanghita Rota and Pine Drive in Kagman, which are under Precinct 5.

The sum of $268,888 that's ready for appropriation in H.L.B. 21-19 will be broken down to fund seven projects and programs

First on the list is the 2019 Liberation Day ($100,000), $30,000 for the Commonwealth Women's Association, $33,000 for the Northern Marianas Athletics for the Oceania Athletics Championships in Townsville, Australia from June 24 to 28.

The 21st Oceania Customs Organization gets $15,000, $50,000 is reserved for the operations of the local delegation of the Third Senatorial District, $20,888 is designated to the Northern Islands Mayor's Office, while $20,000 is for the 38th Flame Tree Arts Festival. ***(Jon Perez)***

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Iakopo eyes changes to veteran care

Stanley Tapuaialupe Iakopo, the newly-appointed executive director of the CNMI Veterans Affairs Office under the Office of the Governor, is passionate about changing, at least in the CNMI, how veterans are provided services.

Iakopo

Iakopo, who is a military veteran himself, is saddened that veterans are not given the support they need. "We celebrate them when they leave but when they come back, we don't give them the support they need," he said.

He wants to change that, at least in the Commonwealth, and will work to ensure that veterans are aware of all the benefits they are entitled to.

As a first step, Iakopo said he will work on creating a smoother coordination among all agencies, both federal and local, and all non-profit groups and organizations that have been looking out for the best interest of the island's veterans. "I want to bridge [any] gap," he said.

He would also like his agency to partner with the U.S. Department of Defense and other military entities to further explore what CNMI veterans need.

"I'll ask for the stars and take whatever I can get for our veterans," he said.

Iakopo said he would also delve deeper into the concerns of veterans because, in just a week in his new post, he said he has already met with several veterans who have expressed a number of concerns that have been overlooked for years.

"Just give us time," he said.

Veteran Affairs Office program coordinator Vivian Taitano believes that Iakopo can achieve much for the islands' veterans if he is given the chance.

Iakopo served the U.S. Air Force for 18 years. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

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SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2019
The workshop will be an ongoing session so participants can stop by anytime between 9:00am and 12:00pm. Workshop will be held at the Northern Marianas College As Terlaje Campus.

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10 airlines set summer schedules

The Commonwealth Ports Authority announced yesterday its summer flight schedule for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The following 10 airlines have set their flight schedule: Asiana Airlines, Beijing Capital Airlines, China Eastern Airlines, Jeju Air, Sichuan Airlines, United Airlines, Hong Kong Airlines, HK Express, T'way Air, and Skymark Airlines.

Asiana Airlines will operate a daily flight to Incheon International Airport.

Beijing Capital Airlines will operate a flight to China twice per week.

China Eastern Airlines will operate a flight to Beijing three times per week.

Jeju Air will not only operate two daily flights between Saipan and the Incheon International Airport but it will also operate a flight to Gimhae International Airport in Busan four times a week.

Like Jeju, Sichuan Airlines is also scheduled to operate flights to two different locations: a flight to Shanghai Pudong Airport four times per week and a flight to Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport twice per week.

United Airlines will operate a morning flight to the Antonio B. Won Pat International Airport in Guam daily and an evening flight to the Antonio B. Won Pat International Airport twice per week.

Hong Kong Airlines will operate a flight to Hong Kong International Airport twice per week.

HK Express will operate a flight to Hong Kong International Airport four times per week.

T'way Air will operate a flight to Incheon International Airport five times per week.

Skymark Airlines operated charter flights to Narita International Airport earlier this month.

"I'm happy to announce the summer schedule for our airlines," said CPA executive director Chris Tenorio. "The Commonwealth Ports Authority is working hard to incentivize new airlines to begin operating in the CNMI, and with the support of other CNMI government offices, I believe other airlines will see that the CNMI is an attractive tourist location and will seek operating new flights not only to Saipan but also to Tinian and Rota." ***(PR)***

SCHEDULED POWER INTERRUPTIONS

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has updated its scheduled power interruptions for May 22-25 due to the early completion of Primary Source Electric's work these past few days.

■ **WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019 – 7:30am to 6:30pm**
- ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized lateral outage on the Kiya 2 distribution circuit
- ❑ Village location: San Antonio
- ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Chalan Monsignor Road, San Antonio (energized at 9:40 a.m.), Pacific Islands Club will remain offline until 6:30pm
- ❑ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Work to be performed: Replace damaged power lines with new power lines

■ **THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019 – 7:30am to 6:30pm**
- ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized lateral outage on the Kiya 2 distribution circuit
- ❑ Village location: San Antonio
- ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Pacific Islands Club
- ❑ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Work to be performed: Replace damaged power lines with new power lines

■ **THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019 – 7:30am to 6:30pm**
- ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized lateral outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- ❑ Village location: Dandan
- ❑ Power service area(s) affected: ARFF and Skydive Saipan
- ❑ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Work to be performed: Replace damaged power lines with new power lines

■ **FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2019 – 7:30am to 6:30pm**
- ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized lateral outage on the Kiya 2 distribution circuit
- ❑ Village location: Koblerville
- ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Portions of Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road, Koblerville (for residents along the Korean Methodist Church to the Koblerville Mobil Gas Station). See map for further details.
- ❑ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Work to be performed: Replace damaged power lines with new power lines

■ **SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2019 – 7:30am to 6:30pm**
- ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized lateral outage on the Kiya 2 distribution circuit
- ❑ Village location: Koblerville
- ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Portions of Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road, Koblerville (for residents along the Korean Methodist Church to the Koblerville Mobil Gas Station). See map for further details.
- ❑ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Work to be performed: Replace damaged power lines with new power lines

The purpose of the scheduled power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from PSE to safely conduct maintenance associated with the ongoing restoration effort in the aforementioned locations.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

As a result of the hardening tasks, CUC's power distribution system will be stronger and much more reliable during a natural disaster.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

DISABILITIES CONFERENCE

NMC

First lady Diann Torres gave the welcoming remarks at the recently-held Disabilities Conference at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. The workshop aimed to provide students with information about college admissions, financial aid, finding pathways to careers, and more. NMC collaborated with the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Developmental Disabilities Council to host the event, which is the first Pre-Employment Transition Services Conference focusing on counseling and post-secondary education.

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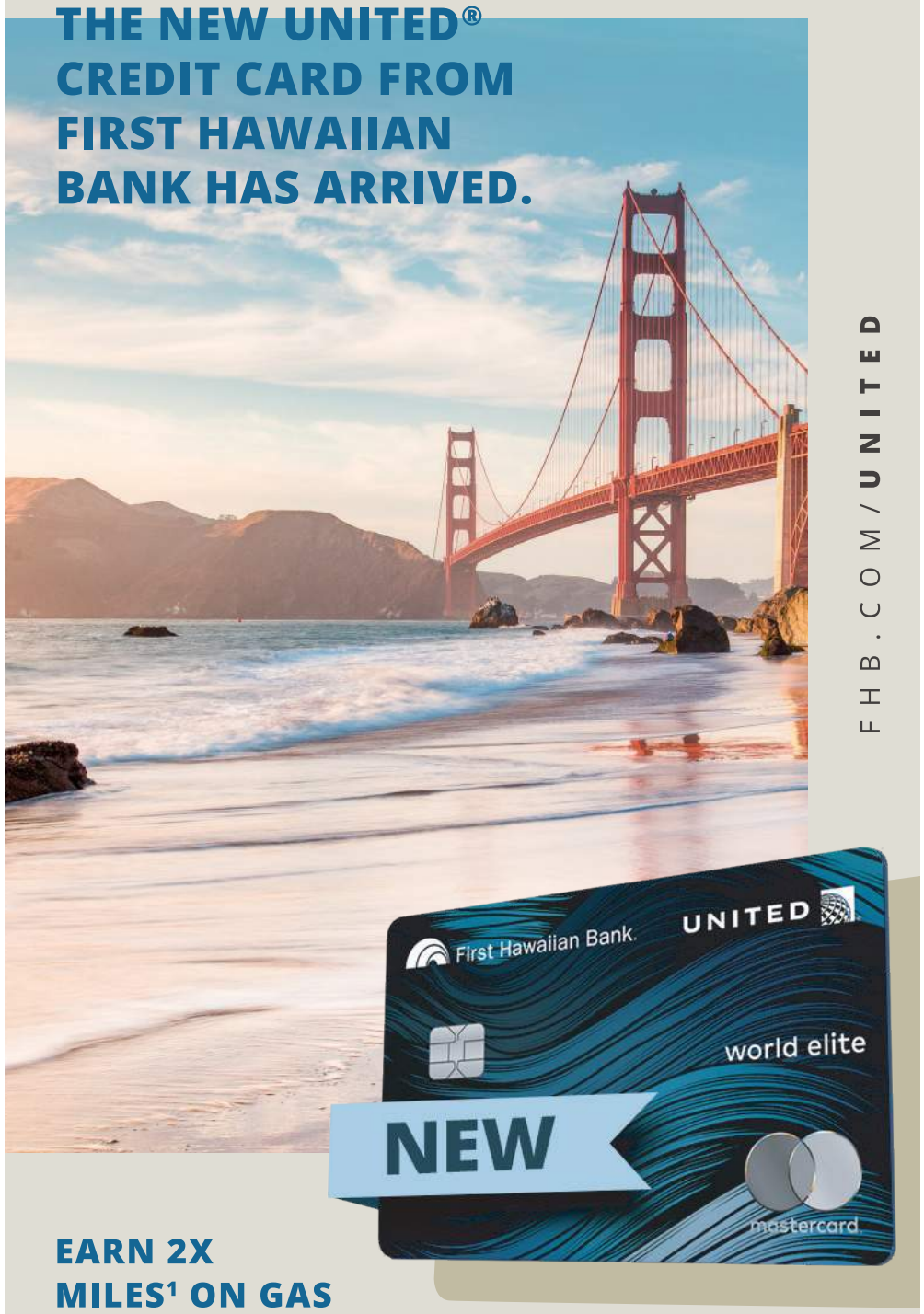

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Bank of Guam names 5 Ifit scholars

Choi

Dahilig

Untun

Barcinas

Keller

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam announced yesterday the names of its five Ifit scholars for 2019.

They are Mariette Barcinas of the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior and Senior High School on Rota; Ji Hye Choi of the Guam Adventist Academy in Guam; Kyle Dahilig of the Okkodo High School in Guam; Rita Mae Keller of the Xavier High School in Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia; and Nicholas Untun of the Yap Catholic High School in Yap, also in FSM.

In addition to being awarded a $2,000 grant to an accredited college of their choice, each graduate was offered a paid internship with the Bank of Guam.

This is Bank of Guam's eighth year of granting Ifit scholarships.

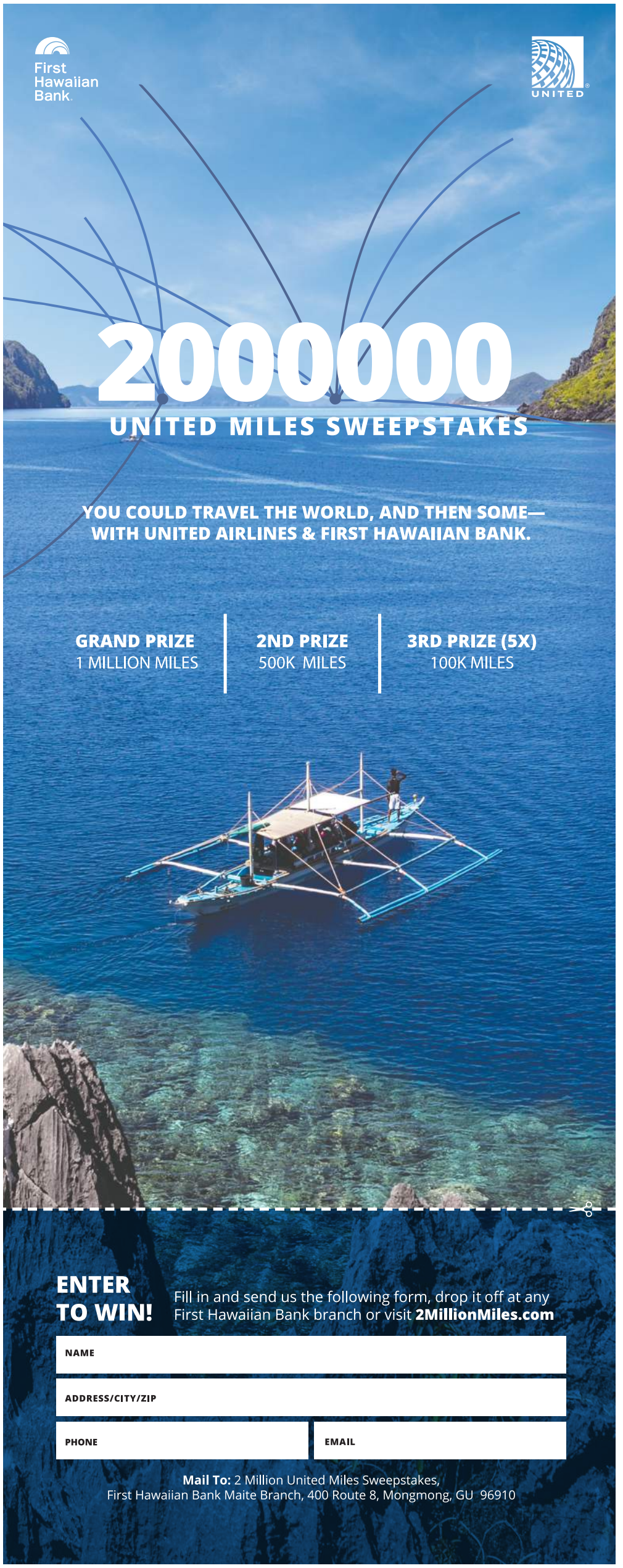
According to Joaquin P.L.G. Cook, Bank of Guam president and chief executive officer, "…We are happy to be a part of the journey of these outstanding students. As a direct beneficiary of the success of our island communities, a large part of Bank of Guam's mission has been to provide opportunities for further educating future leaders of the region. We are very proud of these students and the many who applied. They are all extraordinary young adults, and we wish them every success." ***(PR)***

NMC Cash for College workshop this Saturday

Northern Marianas College is reminding the community about the free "Cash for College" workshop that will happen this Saturday, May 25, 2019, at the NMC As Terlaje campus, between Buildings N and O. The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 9am and 12pm.

Participants of the workshop will be given step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms.

Parents or guardians interested in attending the workshop can also bring their child(ren) to the Children's Center in NMC's Building K in Rooms 1 and 2. ***(PR)***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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

An easy way to help American companies compete

The economic health of Washington and the rest of the country got a major boost last week when the U.S. Senate restored the Export-Import Bank of the United States to full operations. Now lawmakers need to finish their work by extending the bank's charter another four years.

For more than 1,400 days, the Ex-Im Bank has been three members short of a quorum, preventing it from financing any deal over $10 million. Almost $40 billion worth of deals have been stymied, holding up an estimated 230,000 jobs. Washington was hard hit as the number of jobs supported by the bank plummeted from 39,000 in fiscal 2014 to only 650 in fiscal 2018.

On Wednesday, a bipartisan group in the Senate finally fixed that by confirming Kimberly Reed as president of the bank along with two other members. Washington's Sen. Maria Cantwell was among those demanding action.

The bank was created during the Great Depression and plays a vital role in facilitating the export of U.S. goods and services, which in turn creates jobs here. For example, it provides loan guarantees and credit insurance to American companies as well as loans to international buyers of American goods. The bank is an independent, self-financing federal agency that costs taxpayers nothing.

The bank's services are especially important for Washington, where international trade is a cornerstone of the economy. In the past five years, the bank's guarantees have helped 128 Washington exporters. The beneficiaries include 99 small businesses, eight minority-owned businesses and 10 women-owned businesses.

Other countries have their own versions of export-import banks. While America's was shut down, businesses in those nations had a competitive advantage.

Critics, including the most conservative wing of the Republican Party, decry the bank as a provider of corporate welfare. That's shortsighted. Some of Ex-Im's clients are giants like Boeing, but the bank fills an important gap in helping foreign buyers gain financing that private-sector lenders either will not or cannot extend.

The bank's restoration could be short-lived, though. Its charter is scheduled to expire in September.

Cantwell had unexpected allies in Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and President Donald Trump, both of whom supported this week's quorum-restoring vote. She will need their help again. If Trump and Republicans want to boost the economy, they'll reach across the aisle again to renew the charter for years to come.

The Seattle Times editorial board members are editorial page editor Kate Riley, Frank A. Blethen, Brier Dudley, Mark Higgins, Derrick Nunnally and William K. Blethen (emeritus).

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Why politics matters

By ANN MCFEATTERS
Tribune News Service

Ann McFeatters is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service*. Readers may send her email at amcfeatters@nationalpress.com.*

WASHINGTON – Anyone who thinks politics is something arcane that happens in Washington or the state capital and has nothing to do with real life got a jolt in recent days.

Donald Trump has begun, in earnest, a trade war with China that will affect millions of consumers in America and thousands of farmers. Ultimately, it will raise prices consumers pay for almost everything (which amounts to a huge tax increase for low-income and middle-income Americans). It will mean many farmers will not be able to sell their crops for a fair price and may go out of business.

At the same time Trump has been talking about a possible war with Iran, a country that may already have nuclear technology and has grown increasingly anxious about U.S. sanctions imposed after Trump pulled out of the deal with Iran that kept it from making nuclear weapons. Five other nations are still abiding by the agreement.

Unlike the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan, no other country would stand by the United States in a war with Iran.

Meanwhile, Trump is also rattling sabers over Venezuela and North Korea. He is blithely talking about sending a hundred thousand troops...somewhere...sometime...somehow. It took 500,000 soldiers to fight in Iraq; Iran is much larger.

Trump also is continuing to side with Saudi Arabia in its bloody war against Yemen, where thousands have died as U.S. bombs fall from the skies.

On the homefront, Alabama proudly has passed an abortion law so restrictive it doesn't even permit exceptions for rape or incest. Technically, a woman could no longer have an abortion once she found out she was pregnant. A doctor who performed an abortion in the state could be subject to as long as 99 years in prison.

The Alabama law is vaguely written on purpose to make sure it goes to the Supreme Court. There, Trump's two picks for the highest court in the land are conservative and may end up overturning Roe v. Wade, the 1973 case that legalized abortion in America.

The court is not likely to take up the case before the 2020 election. But if Trump is re-elected, he would get to name at least one more justice and possibly two more, giving conservatives total control of the court –and Americans' daily life -- for generations.

It is notably ironic, of course, that the very people so determined to make a woman carry an unwanted pregnancy to term and bring up children who may not be properly cared for are the very people who oppose strengthening gun control laws and refuse to do anything to stop the killings of children in schools. In another stomach-turning irony, they are the very people who don't want others to have affordable health insurance and who cut benefits for unwed mothers and their children.

Cleaning up the environment and preventing more catastrophic natural disasters increasingly caused by climate change are now political footballs. Trump calls global warming a "hoax," pulling this nation out of the Paris climate accords and ensuring that the world will get dirtier and more dangerous. Species are being driven extinct at a faster and faster rate. He has appointed oil and gas barons to be stewards of the environment, loosening the protections it took decades to put in place.

At the same time more states are passing restrictive laws on birth control and abortion and access to medical care, the national government is conducting a war on immigrant children. Dreamers, children of undocumented parents, are terrified of being dragged out of college or away from their jobs and deported to violent countries they do not know and which no longer receive U.S. aid. And in far too many cases children whose parents try to seek asylum in the U.S. are snatched away and put in camps and may never see their parents again. This is being done in the name of the "rule of law."

Fear is causing a lot of this. Fear of others. Fear of losing a job. Fear of violating principles even if they harm others. Fear of what others might think. Fear of others having more or less.

But some of it is caused by bullying. It is so easy, with power, to be a bully, to impose your will on others, to do what suits you at the expense of others, to ignore facts and the lessons of history.

America's history is rife with bullying and fear. Millions of black people, women, immigrants, Native Americans and religious minorities suffered because of it.

And here we go again, but politics today is making it even easier for the powerful to prey on the weak, unless, of course, the weak reassert the power they may have forgotten they have.

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Facebook is still a one-stop shop for fake news

By JON HEALEY
Los Angeles Times

If you're looking for real news, Twitter is the place to find it. But if you prefer the fake variety, your Facebook feed is the more promising source.

That's the implication of a new study of European social media traffic by Oxford University's Internet Institute. The authors looked at more than 580,000 tweets related to this week's European Parliament elections over a 15-day period in April, finding links in about a quarter of them. They then analyzed the links that were shared at least five times, labeling them as either real or "junk" news, the latter defined as "ideologically extreme, misleading, and factually incorrect information."

By the way, the most popular source of news that the Oxford team defined as junk was InfoWars, which sprinkles actual news reports in among the fakes and outrage trolling.

One result was a little surprising, given all the concern about Russian meddlers and their ilk. According to the study, less than 4% of the sources shared multiple times on Twitter were junk news or "known Russian sources." Twitter users were much more prone to point their followers to mainstream news outlets, which made up 34% of the links. The one exception was Polish-language tweets, "where junk news made up 21% of traffic," the study said.

The bulk of the rest of the links were to political campaigns and related organizations (22%) and to other non-news sources, such as civic groups and nonprofits (36%). Clearly, Twitter users in Europe were obtaining a great deal of their election information from sources outside the "media elite."

The study's approach to Facebook was a little different. The authors took the five most popular sources of junk news and the five most popular sources of real journalism across seven different languages, then measured how many likes, comments and shares each source amassed on Facebook during the month leading up to the European elections. Though Facebook users in Europe posted far more links to legitimate news outlets, the junk sources were typically shared with far more gusto.

The propensity to pass along junk news varied widely from country to country, however. German-language junk news links were shared six times as frequently as real news. For English-language material, the junk-to-real news ratio was 4 to 1. For French, 2 to 1. But for posts in Polish and Italian, legitimate sources were more likely to be shared than illegitimate ones.

Results from U.S. users may vary, but the study makes intuitive sense. Facebook curates news feeds to a much greater extent than Twitter; the former is more likely to show you posts that generate an emotional reaction, while the latter seems to just pass on tweets in real time from the people you follow. Put another way, Facebook seems purposely built to support the outrage that junk sources peddle. Twitter, not so much.

One other point about Facebook: The study found that even though links to junk news were much more likely to be shared, considerably fewer people were exposed to them than posts with links to legitimate journalism. The implication is that Facebook users in Europe with a taste for junk news are a relatively small and insular group compared to those who prefer mainstream news sources

Who gets to decide about war with Iran?

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service*, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.*

It doesn't happen often, but when I agree with President Donald Trump I acknowledge it: Last week a reporter shouted a question at the president: Are we going to war with Iran? The president replied, "I hope not." So should we all.

But to hope is to relinquish agency and power over the course of events, implying that others have as much or more control than we do. Who actually has the power to spark a disastrous war with Iran?

The Trump administration's approach to Iran feels dangerously confrontational, as well as improvisational and haphazard. Clearly, many of the administration's actions are belligerent: the abrogation of the Iran nuclear deal, the designation of the Revolutionary Guards Corps as a terrorist organization, the termination of waivers for countries that trade with Iran and the movement of an aircraft carrier into the region.

But none of this means that war is inevitable. Despite these aggressive actions, the president appears to be hesitating. He says, as he often does, "We'll see what happens." But this is a disconcerting relinquishment of power to others.

Could the mullahs who control Iran or the Revolutionary Guards start the war? Easily. An attack on an American vessel or American troops would make war nearly inevitable. The mullahs, however, may be fanatical, but they're not irrational, and such an attack would not serve their interests as well as do negotiations with the Europeans.

A war could easily be sparked, as well, by an attack from one of the 30 or so Shia militias in the area that have varying degrees of affiliation with Iran.

Or more likely, perhaps, a simple miscalculation could start the war.

In short, peace hangs by a thinner thread than usual in the Middle East, and the Trump administration is granting other factions significant control over what happens next.

Why is war with Iran such a bad idea? I depend on the insights of experts—academics, diplomats and journalists such as Vali Nasr, Sandra Mackey and Kenneth Pollack—to help explain why we should not fight Iran.

Apart from Israel, politics in the Middle East is driven by two balancing factions: One is Persian and Shiite (Iran); the other is Arab and Sunni (Saudi Arabia). We probably should not take sides, at all, but to the extent that we have, we have chosen the wrong side. Iran could be a natural ally; Saudi Arabia has a lot to answer for.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia dates only to 1932, and it's always been a family-run monarchy. Iranians, on the other hand, trace their origins back two millennia, to the great Persian empires of Cyrus and Xerxes. Iranians' pride in their history cannot be discounted in negotiations or in the contemplation of war.

Further, Iran has democratic tendencies unheard of in Saudi Arabia. Inclinations toward democracy date to the Iranian revolution of 1906, which replaced a dynasty with a constitution and parliament. Unfortunately Iranian democracy was thwarted by the oil-hungry West, first by the British in 1921 and then by the United States in 1953.

For most of the 20th century Iran was ruled by a tyrannical shah supported by the U.S. as a bulwark against communism. His autocratic, corrupt, repressive regime made the 1979 revolution almost inevitable.

But despite the oppressive theocracy imposed by the mullahs, Iran has a young population that is inclined toward moderation, openness and modernity.

Yes, Iranians are involved in disruptive activities in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and elsewhere, but they are playing hardball on their home field in a game that we hardly understand.

Iran's history implies that it will respond better to respectful diplomacy than to threats and intimidation. Yet here we are, on the brink of war, and others are fully capable of tipping us into the abyss.

In fact, however, neither Trump nor the mullahs nor the Shia militias should be able to control whether we go to war. That power resides in Article I of the Constitution, which reserves for congress the responsibility "To Declare War." Democrats and Republicans must insist on this prerogative.

Men are people too

By ANDREW L. YARROW
The Baltimore Sun

Andrew L. Yarrow (Twitter: @alyarrow), a former New York Times *reporter and an affiliate faculty member in the George Mason University history department, is the author of* Man Out: Men on the Sidelines of American Life.

As the 2020 campaign revs up, the major issues seem clear—health care, taxes, racism, climate change, immigration and President Donald Trump. But ask a candidate where he or she stands on "men's issues," and one is likely to get a puzzled look, a groan or a disquisition about "masculinity."

Some immediately recoil at the very idea that there are "men's issues." To even suggest this is often seen as sexist heresy; anyone who does so must be a woman-hating exponent of "men's rights."

Of course, there are many women's issues that belong on the political agenda. Despite great gains during the last half century, women still live with the fear of sexual assault and harassment, and—on average—remain the bigger losers in a society still dominated by a white male political and economic power elite.

That doesn't negate the fact that there are important men's issues that our politics and government could help address. While some men do awful things or blithely take their privilege for granted, tens of millions of American males face issues that are ravaging their lives. Nearly 30% of men age 20 and older aren't working. Men commit suicide at 3.5 times the rate of women and are twice as likely to die from drug overdoses. Twenty million children live without fathers in their homes. Nearly 20 million male ex-felons have little opportunity to turn around their lives. And the list goes on.

What does this mean for American politics? While some politicians use cliched dog-whistles like the Second Amendment or immigrant-bashing to appeal to men, these no more speak to many men's difficulties than other politicians and public figures who see men's problems through the simplistic lens of "toxic masculinity."

So, here's a dare to presidential and congressional candidates: Tell us your views on the following:

1. Paid parental leave that enables men, as well as women, to take time off to care for a new baby, with employers prohibited from discriminating by gender;

2. Creating a federal Office of Men's Health to support research and outreach on physical and mental health problems affecting men;

3. Providing a variant of the earned income tax credit targeted to those who have been out of the workforce for more than one year;

4. Significantly expanding public-private partnerships to provide training and job placement;

5. Restoring recess and PE in schools to enable boys (and girls) to get exercise and play to help them be more attentive in class;

6. Establishing fair standards that distinguish between the many gradations of behavior called sexual harassment so that punishment is meted out when deserved, false and flimsy accusations don't ruin men's lives and the climate for male-female interaction is less charged;

7. Increasing support for quality re-entry programs for formerly incarcerated men (and women), to help them get jobs and cut recidivism;

8. And strengthening internet regulation to reduce extreme forms of pornography, sexting and gender-based (and other) hate speech.

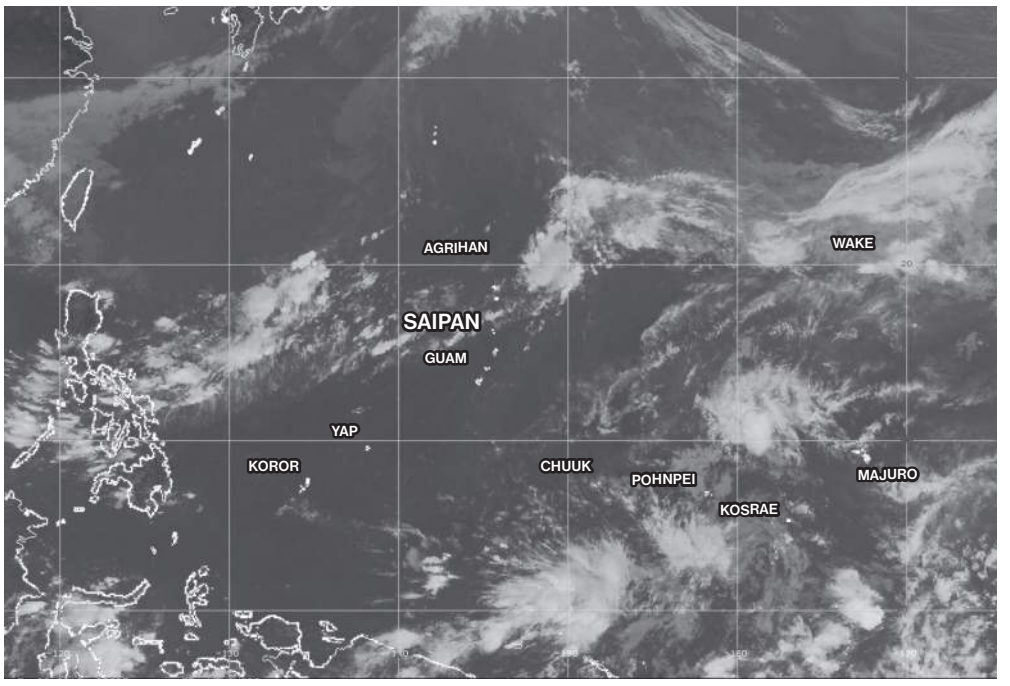
Just as women should have equal access to good jobs and power without fear of sexual violence and harassment, we need to enable boys to thrive in school, fathers to be equal parents, male ex-workers and ex-felons to re-enter the workforce with decent jobs, and men to be far less at risk for suicide, overdoses and premature death. Politicians should speak out for these sidelined men, not only to improve their lives but also to benefit women and children and to move our society away from divisive gender generalizations.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
88° 79°	89° 70°	89° 70°	80° 70°	80° 70°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:53 AM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters arranged into lines from southwest to northeast. The VAD wind profile indicates southwest winds of 7 to 13 knots through the lowest 7 thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal combined seas of 4 to 6 feet with a brief spike up to 8 feet earlier in the Saipan waters.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	89° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°
Chuuk	Showers	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	64° / 54°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	97° / 66°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	84° / 81°
Honolulu	Showers	86° / 75°
London	Showers	72° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	69° / 56°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 81°
Melbourne	Showers	66° /50°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	83° / 77°
New York	Mostly Sunny	76° / 57°
Osaka	Sunny	90° / 68°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	72° / 54°
Busan	Cloudy	81° / 64°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	72° / 55°
Salem	Sunny	95° / 70°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61° / 52°
Seoul	Cloudy	84° / 61°
Tokyo	Sunny	88° / 66°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	87° / 64°

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
05:07 AM	LOW TIDE	1.23
9:24 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.70
5:01 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.20
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:19 AM	10:37 PM
Friday	-	10:11 AM	11:23 PM
Saturday	-	11:01 AM	-
Sunday	12:06 AM	11:51 AM	-
Monday	12:46 AM	12:39 AM	-

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DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ62	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	2, 4, 5
7C3403	5:10am	8:55am	1, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:10am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	09:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 3, 4
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Customers First TRIPLE J

TRUCKLOAD SALE

AMAZING DEALS ON DAILY ESSENTIALS, QUALITY BRANDS AND MUST-HAVE ELECTRONICS!

STORE HOURS: WEDNESDAY- FRIDAY 11AM TO 8PM • SATURDAY 9AM TO 8PM • SUNDAY 11AM TO 6PM

MEMORIAL DAY
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DYNA-GLO 4 BURNER OPEN CART LP GAS GRILL
$229.95

$115.95
OSTER 1.1 CF 1000W SS MICROWAVE OVEN

BBQ PRO 22.5 IN ROUND CHARCOAL KETTLE GRILL
$69.95

$26.95
ESI - BP TRUE WIRELESS SPEAKER BLUETOOTH

LG 43" 4K ULTRA HD SMART LED TV
$599.95

$69.95
Z SHADE 8FT X 8FT INSTANT SPORT CANOPY

$24.95
COLEMAN 16 QT 22 CANS EXCURSION COOLER

HOME GYM 2980 WEIDER COMPLETE WORKOUT ALL IN ONE
$399.95

$10.95
DAHDOUL - SHERPA FLANNEL MEGA THROW BORREGO

HOOVER STEAM SCRUB PRO STEAM MOP
$59.95

$259.95
CONSERVATOR 5 CU FT CHEST FREEZER VFH050QW

CROSLEY 15 CUFT REFRIGERATOR XPS15BTHLWW
$729.95

$169.95
MATTRESS QUEEN SIZE 153X203X19CM

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CROSLEY SBS 23.2 CU FT REFRIGERATOR

$1,399.95

QFX 8" RECHARGEABLE PARTY SPEAKER

$49.95

IMPRESS 8"TURBO VELOCITY FAN

$22.95

EVERGREEN 4X6 ARTIFICIAL GRASS RUG

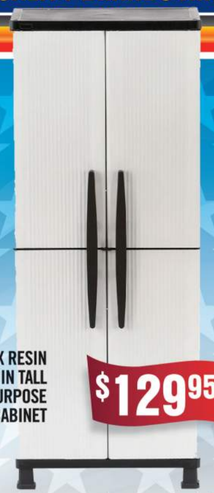
$29.95

DAHDOUL 27"X54" STANDARD TOWEL

$4.95

OSTER 10 SPEED PLASTIC BLENDER

$39.95



HDX RESIN 27 IN TALL MULTIPURPOSE CABINET

$129.95

HONG MA 6 FT FOLD-IN-HALF BENCH

$29.95

$36.95

HONG MA 5 FT CENTERFOLDING TABLE

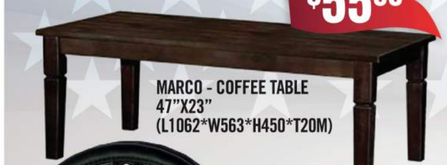
COLEMAN 62 QT WHEELED COOLER

$69.95

$159.95

SILO 32" 720P LED TV

$55.95



MARCO - COFFEE TABLE 47"X23" (L1062*W563*H450*T20M)

DEAL OF THE WEEK

QFX 15" RECHARGEABLE PARTY SPEAKER APP CONTROL

$129.95

NWT DIRECTORS CHAIR W/ TABLE

$53.95

MARCO - 3FT DOUBLE DECKER W/ LVL SLAT BASE

$249.95

DAHDOUL STEERING WHEEL COVER

$4.95

DAHDOUL RABBIT FUR THROW PILLOW

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EH 12X48 DOOR MIRROR

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ESI-B FLASHING LED CRYSTAL GEM SPEAKER

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GLACIER BAY HIGH EFFICIENCY 2 PC TOILET

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ADELCO 2 TON TROLLY JACK KIT

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6PC PATIO SET (4 CHAIRS, 1 TABLE & 1 UMBRELLA)

$169.95

DAHDOUL EMIRATES 2X3

$5.95

DAHDOUL EMIRATES 5'3"X7'2"

$49.95

ESI- BB TRUE WIRELESS EARBUDS W/ CHARGING BASE

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SMART SENSE 35PK 16.90 FL OZ PURIFIED WATER

$7.95

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DAHDOUL 4PC RUBBER WW RESISTANT CAR MAT

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CHAMPION BREED 50LB DOG FOOD

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DAHDOUL RIVERSIDE 13 PC SHOWER CURTAIN

$5.95

MAX AP CANOPY 10X20 FOOT W/ 6 LEGS

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free probate workshop on Saipan

The Micronesian Legal Services Corp. will be presenting Probate Workshop No. 5 on Chamorro Inheritance today, May 23, 2019, starting at 3pm, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. The workshop is open to the public and free of charge. Materials will be distributed. For more information call the MLSC at 234-7729. ***(PR)***

Weightlifting competition on June 15

The 2019 CNMI Weightlifting Championship will be held on June 15, 2019, a Saturday, at the Roundhouse, Garapan Central Park, starting at 10am.

Registration deadline is noon of June 8, 2019. Entry fee is $10, while the admission fee is $5.

There will also be a competitors' meeting at noon, Saturday, June 8, 2019, at the NMPASI conference room in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

For more information, contact John Davis at 789-9211, Greg Borja at 787-6642, or Jeanne Rayphand at 287-9807. ***(PR)***

Pro-life walk/roll on May 24

Grace Christian Ministries Navy Hill is inviting the public to join them for a candlelight prayer walk/roll on Friday, May 24, at 6pm, at the Garapan Fishing Base across Kristo Rai Parish church. Its purpose is to pray over the many needs of the island related to the issue of abortion. After the prayer there will be a walk/roll to Quartermaster Road then back to Garapan Fishing Base. ***(PR)***

GovGuam denies TakeCare protest

On May 03, 2019, the Guam Department of Administration received a protest from TakeCare Insurance Co. Inc. in regards to Government of Guam Procurement No. DOA/HRD-RFP- GHI-20-001. This procurement is for the GovGuam health insurance program for fiscal year 2020.

On the advice of its legal counsel, the negotiating team has denied this protest and has advised TakeCare accordingly, and of its rights to administrative and judicial review of this decision. ***(PR)***

Military trainings set

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct open-ocean exercises today, May 23, from 8am to 4pm within a 10-mile radius of the following coordinates: 13˚27''N/144˚21''E.

Open-ocean exercises will take place on May 25, from 12:01am to 8am and from 4pm to 10pm, and on May 26, from 2am to 8am within a 10-mile radius of the following coordinates: 13˚48''N/144˚41''E.

The U.S. Navy will also conduct training on May 24, from 7am to 8pm, and on May 26, from 7am to 11:59pm, at the island of Farallon de Medinilla.

Naval Special Warfare Group 1 will conduct close quarters combat training on May 24-26, from 7am to 6pm, at Radio Barrigada.

Units participating in Exercise Pacific Vanguard will conduct training daily on May 23-28, from 12:01am to 11:59pm, at Warning Area 517 (W-517). ***(PR)***

Precinct 2 town hall on May 28

Members of the community are invited to join a town hall meeting with Precinct 2 Reps. Christina Sablan and John Paul Sablan next Tuesday, May 28, from 5pm to 7pm, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The two Precinct 2 representatives will take questions and concerns from constituents, and share updates on legislative issues and precinct activities. All are welcome. For more information or to RSVP, call the Office of Rep. Christina Sablan at 664-8829 or the Office of Rep. John Paul Sablan at 664-8965. ***(PR)***

Joint inauguration in FSM in July 29

PALIKIR, Pohnpei— Federated States of Micronesia president David W. Panuelo, in consultation with FSM Congress Speaker Wesley Simina, has decided to hold the joint inauguration ceremony on July 29, at the FSM Capitol in Palikir, Pohnpei. The FSM government will welcome traditional leaders, leaders from neighbor and partner nations, dignitaries, government officials, and citizens of the FSM who will witness this event.

The FSM Information Services will provide thorough public information on the joint inauguration ceremony as the details on the planning and organization for the event become clear and finalized. ***(PR)***

Public hearing on mandatory fishery data reporting regs

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife is inviting all fishermen, boat owners, restaurant operators, tour operators, and all agencies engaged in commercial fishing on Saipan and the Northern Islands that there will be a public hearing on the proposed mandatory data reporting regulations under Pubic Law 17-98.

The hearing will be held on May 29, 2019, from 5pm to 6pm at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

Contact DLNR or DFW for inquiries or to get a copy of the draft regulations at 322-9834 or 664-6000. ***(PR)***

SSHS registration for ongoing students

Saipan Southern High School is now accepting registration forms for ongoing students for SY 2019-2020. Deadline for submission will be on Aug. 21, 2019. All ongoing students must re-register to be enrolled at SSHS. If you have any other questions email Victoria Apatang at victoria.apatang@cnmipss.org. ***(PR)***

MIFICPA seminar on May 25

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants will be conducting its "Leadership Values & Management Accounting Seminar" on May 25 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, from 8am to 12pm. It will be conducted by Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio "Eli" Arago. Registration fee for members is $15, inclusive of snacks and certificate of attendance. Non-members and non-accountants are also welcome for the same fee. Registration starts at 7:30am.

To facilitate the question-and-answer portion of the seminar, you can pre-register and turn in your question(s) ahead of time through the organizers.

For reservation and more details, email Angie Mamaril (angiehmamaril@yahoo.com), Noemi Catigan (noemi_catigan@fiestasaipan.com), Deo Manese (djmanese @gmail.com), Paul Saniel (paulangelosaniel@hotmail.com), Ronnel Calma (rcalmal@jzgroupinc.com), Jimaela Ham (jvham888@gmail.com). ***(PR)***

Public invited to Islandwide Cleanup

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality would like to invite the public to participate in the two-day Islandwide Cleanup on Friday, May 31, from 3pm to 4:30pm and on Saturday, June 1, from 8am to 10am. The event is part of the celebration of Environmental Awareness Week, which will be celebrated on May 28-31, 2019.

If you are interested in participating in the islandwide cleanup, fill up the registration form and submit before 4:30pm on May 21, 2019. Fax the form to BECQ at 664-8540, or email it to the event coordinators:

- Glenn Arriola glennarriola@becq.gov.mp
- Loy Atalig loyatalig@becq.gov.mp
- Emma Iriarte emmairiarte@becq.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

Police checkpoints this Friday

The CNMI Department of Public Safety will be conducting two checkpoints on Friday, May 24. The first checkpoint will be from Beach Road, Garapan to Beach Road, Susupe from 9am to 12pm. The second checkpoint will be from Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Jose to Isa Drive, San Vicente from 3pm to 6pm. Locations of the checkpoints were pre-determined based on the number of auto accidents in these areas. ***(PR)***

Candle Light Vigil: Pro-life Prayer Walk
Remembering the lives of preborn babies lost to abortion.
Praying for healing.
Praying for conversion.
Praying for life.
"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."
Psalm 139:13-14
Friday, May 24, 2019 | 6:00PM
Garapan Fishing Base
All denominations welcome!
Sponsored by Grace Christian Ministries - Navy Hill

Business

Nonprofits turn to cryptocurrency to help needy Venezuelans

BARQUISIMETO, Venezuela (AP)—Andreina Cordero started the year skipping meals so her three kids could eat. Her husband, a construction worker, was out of a job. And the family's savings had been devastated by the nation's hyperinflation, limiting Cordero's children to a diet of rice, beans, pasta and fried corn patties.

But the family got a break from their daily struggle to feed themselves this spring when a social worker enrolled them in a program run by a Silicon Valley startup that is donating cryptocurrency to hundreds of Venezuelan families.

Every week from February to April, Cordero received a deposit of EOS tokens through a cellphone app. She then traded the digital money for local currency through online transfers and used the funds to shop in market stalls.

"We finally got to eat chicken" Cordero said. "And there were also vegetables for the kids."

The three-month trial in crypto transfers is now over, and the family is back to skipping meals and eating mostly beans and rice. But Cordero is thankful for the time that digital currency saved her kids from malnutrition.

"I'm very grateful for what they did for us" Cordero said. "It would be a blessing if something like that were set up again."

Over the past decade, cryptocurrencies like EOS and bitcoin have become popular among investors looking to make large profits from a new and anonymous form of storing wealth.

But a handful of charities are also now using digital currencies to send relief directly to those in need, circumventing banks and companies that handle remittances. They've found the ideal testing ground in Venezuela, where the annual inflation rate by some estimates has soared to a staggering 67,000%, forcing millions to scavenge daily to feed themselves.

"Crypto has the highest likelihood of being helpful to people in places where money is broken" said Joe Waltman, executive director of GiveCrypto, the charity that provided direct transfers to Cordero and more than 100 Venezuelan families in Barquisimeto. "And there's probably no better example of broken money right now than Venezuela."

GiveCrypto's program provided temporary help to vulnerable families by providing them with a weekly deposit worth around $7 — or about the same as Venezuela's monthly minimum wage. The organization is also aiming to make people familiar with crypto apps so they can transfer their own earnings into digital currency and use it to buy goods, long after they have stopped receiving free deposits.

"We want to show that people who are not techies or investors can also benefit from this technology," said Efrain Pineda, the project's manager. "Anyone can use crypto to protect themselves from inflation and make their daily life easier."

While many middle-class Venezuelans already try to protect their savings from hyperinflation by purchasing U.S. dollars and even gold nuggets, saving in crypto offers a solution to store wealth that may be physically safer than holding on to cash or precious metals in a crime-infested country. Online platforms that allow Venezuelans to buy and hold U.S. dollars provide a similar service.

Storing cryptocurrency presents greater financial risks than holding U.S. dollars, though, due to the wild swings in the value of some crypto assets, including bitcoin. But in Venezuela, where the local bolivar currency has lost two-thirds of its value this year, some merchants are willing to give this technology a shot.

In Barquisimeto, Leticia Luque, an informal merchant, said she began to accept crypto payments two months ago at the request of a social worker collaborating with GiveCrypto's direct transfer scheme. She said the technology has helped her gain time to barter for better prices with suppliers and plan what she will buy next.

"We used to be in a rush to purchase goods before our bolivars lost their value" said Luque, whose husband travels every week to Colombia to stock up on packaged foods and basic goods that the couple re-sells out of their home. "Now we can take our time and we know that our earnings are in a safe place."

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor
Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Governor
Eli D. Cabrera, Administrator
Ray S. Masga, Director, DEQ
Janice E. Castro, Director, DCRM

NOTICE

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) would like to inform the general public that DCRM will be

CLOSED

on May 23 (Thursday) & May 24 (Friday), 2019

for a Professional Development Workshop.

Regular office hours will resume on May 28, 2019.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Find Out if You Are Eligible

WIC CNMI

WIC is available to CNMI's pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants and children under the age of five who are at nutritional risk and who are at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines below. A pregnant woman is considered two family members.

WIC Income Eligibility Table By Family Size Effective May 8, 2019

Family Members in Household	Yearly Household Income	Monthly Household Income	Twice-Monthly Household Income	Bi-Weekly Household Income	Weekly Household Income
1	$23,107	$1,926	$963	$889	$445
2	31,284	2,607	1,304	1,204	602
3	39,461	3,289	1,645	1,518	759
4	47,638	3,970	1,985	1,833	917
5	55,815	4,652	2,326	2,147	1,074
6	63,992	5,333	2,667	2,462	1,231
7	72,169	6,015	3,008	2,776	1,388
8	80,346	6,696	3,348	3,091	1,546
Each Add'l Member Add	+$8,177	+$682	+$341	+$315	+$158

Note: All WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines are based on GROSS Income, meaning before taxes or other deductions

A person or certain family members who participate in other benefits programs, such as the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) or Medicaid automatically meet the income requirement.

Become a WIC Client
Call us at (670) 664-4084 to make an appointment.

What to Bring to your WIC Appointment
- Everyone who will be enrolling into the WIC Program
- Identification for adults (Driver's License, Photo ID)
- Child's Identification (Shot Record, Birth Certificate, Crib Card)
- Proof of Income (30 days of recent paystubs, Medicaid card, NAP card)
- Proof of Address (Mail from CUC or NAP card)

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Nation

Biden: Congress should protect abortion rights, if necessary

WASHINGTON (AP)—Joe Biden would support Congress enshrining abortion rights into federal law "should it become necessary," his presidential campaign said Tuesday, following several other Democratic candidates in promising to take that step if elected president.

The hot-button issue has shot to the forefront of the Democratic primary following a spate of new Republican-backed state laws curbing access to abortion. With all the two dozen Democratic White House hopefuls supportive of abortion rights, the debate in the party has centered on how aggressive they should be if the Supreme Court were to eventually overturn legalized abortion nationwide.

Biden released a video on Tuesday blasting the GOP-backed state laws as "pernicious" and "wrong." He stopped short in the video of endorsing congressional action and offered no specifics on how he would defend Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 Supreme Court decision that is now potentially threatened with new legal challenges.

Asked by The Associated Press whether Biden believed the high court decision should be codified in law, the campaign initially pointed to the video, then later added that the former vice president would support legislation "should it become necessary." A campaign aide then clarified that Biden would support action immediately, regardless of whether the Supreme Court overturned Roe.

The campaign's responses highlight what Biden, a devout Roman Catholic, once called his "middle of the road" approach on abortion. As a young senator, he expressed reservations that the Supreme Court "went too far" in its abortion decision. Since then, he's joined the mainstream of the Democratic Party in defending Roe, though as a senator he sometimes voted with abortion-rights foes on bills related to late-term terminations.

As a moderate figure in a party whose loudest factions often embrace more doctrinaire positions, Biden is already walking a tightrope in the Democratic Party. And his evolving statements on abortion over his four decades in politics could give an opening to rivals who have seized on the Republican push to overturn Roe as a way to affirm their commitment to abortion rights.

Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Cory Booker of New Jersey and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts endorsed new federal laws safeguarding women's right to a legal abortion after Alabama passed a statute that amounts to an outright abortion ban. Sen. Kamala Harris of California also has supported the codification of Roe on the campaign trail, and Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont told the AP on Tuesday that he backs federal lawmaking on abortion rights.

Several of the senators visited the steps of the Supreme Court on Tuesday for one of hundreds of nationwide rallies organized by activist groups to protest state-level abortion restrictions. Gillibrand urged an energetic crowd of more than 100 people to "organize, advocate and vote" in order to ensure abortion rights are protected.

Biden did not attend such a rally Tuesday, instead releasing the video as he was in Orlando, Florida, for a campaign fundraiser.

AP

In this Saturday, May 18, 2019 file photo, Democratic presidential candidate, former Vice President Joe Biden speaks during a campaign rally at Eakins Oval in Philadelphia.

Growing number of House Democrats seek action against Trump

WASHINGTON (AP)—More Democrats are calling —and more loudly—for impeachment proceedings against President Donald Trump after his latest defiance of Congress by blocking his former White House lawyer from testifying.

A growing number of rank-and-file House Democrats, incensed by former counsel Don McGahn's empty chair in the Judiciary Committee hearing room on Tuesday, are confronting House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and pushing her and other leaders to act. Their impatience is running up against the speaker's preference for a more methodical approach , including already-unfolding court battles.

Pelosi summoned some of them—still a small fraction of the House Democratic caucus —to a meeting of investigators Wednesday to assess strategy.

Some other Democratic leaders, while backing Pelosi, signaled that a march to impeachment may at some point become inevitable.

"We are confronting what might be the largest, broadest cover-up in American history," Majority Leader Steny Hoyer told reporters. If a House inquiry "leads to other avenues including impeachment," the Maryland Democrat said, "so be it."

Reps. Joaquin Castro of Texas and Diana DeGette of Colorado added their voices to the impeachment inquiry chorus.

"There is political risk in doing so, but there's a greater risk to our country in doing nothing," Castro said on Twitter. "This is a fight for our democracy."

Tweeted DeGette: "The facts laid out in the Mueller report, coupled with this administration's ongoing attempts to stonewall Congress, leave us no other choice."

One Republican congressman, Justin Amash of Michigan, has called for impeachment proceedings. He said Tuesday he thinks other GOP lawmakers should join him — but only after reading special counsel Robert Mueller's report carefully.

Republican House leader Kevin McCarthy dismissed Amash as out of step with House Republicans and "out of step with America." And Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said wryly of Amash's position, "I don't think it's going to be a trend-setting move."

As Democrats weigh their options, Trump is almost taunting them by testing the bounds of executive power in ways few other administrations have. The White House contends that even former employees like McGahn do not have to abide by subpoenas from Congress.

A short time later House Judiciary Chairman Jerrold Nadler issued subpoenas for more Trump administration officials—former White House communications director Hope Hicks and Annie Donaldson, a former aide in the White House counsel's office for documents and testimony.

Trump's former White House counsel is the most-cited witness in Mueller's Trump-Russia investigation report, recounting the president's attempts to interfere with the probe. And that makes his silence all the more infuriating for Democrats.

Nadler gaveled open Tuesday's hearing with a stern warning that McGahn will be held in contempt for failing to appear.

"Our subpoenas are not optional," Nadler said. "We will not allow the president to stop this investigation."

California governor forms group for homelessness solutions

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Gov. Gavin Newsom called growing homelessness in California a national disgrace as he announced Tuesday that he is launching a task force to find solutions amid a housing crisis in the most populous state.

The Democratic governor said the state has lacked a strategy to curb homelessness but argued that answers will come from the local level. He said the group will work with cities and counties to develop regional plans for addressing the issue.

Newsom made the announcement in Oakland, where county officials said the number of homeless people rose 43 percent over the last two years. Recent data from other counties has shown large increases, too.

"These are jaw-dropping numbers," Newsom told reporters at the Henry Robinson Multi-Service Center, which provides transitional housing for people facing homelessness.

Newsom has proposed spending about $1 billion in the state budget on programs to tackle homelessness, including providing $650 million to local governments for emergency shelters and other services. He also wants to spend money on programs for homeless college students and legal protections for people facing evictions.

Meanwhile, major housing legislation has faltered in the Legislature in recent weeks.

A measure to expand rent control stalled, and the chairman of a key Senate committee held back a closely watched proposal that would have waived zoning rules in some neighborhoods to allow for more housing, such as around public transportation.

Supporters argue that such measures are key to preventing homelessness and creating more housing.

Newsom told reporters that he is talking with Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins and legislative leadership about the development measure. But he did not take a position on whether it should get a vote on the Senate floor.

During his campaign last year, Newsom proposed creating a cabinet-level secretary of homelessness, a post he has yet to fill.

Newsom tapped Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg and Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas to chair the new Homeless and Supportive Housing Task Force. The governor's office said he will appoint other members later.

The group will meet around the state to see best practices and gather input to propose solutions, Newsom's office said. The task force will issue at least one report a year to the governor.

Republican Assemblyman Devon Mathis questioned the need for a new task force, arguing Newsom's administration is not doing enough to address the state's high cost of living.

"Every month, families sit around the kitchen table and have to figure out how to make ends meet. Are we bringing down their cost of electricity?" He said. "Are we bringing down their costs in rent?"

Asia

Losing opposition senatorial candidates Erin Tanada, right, and Leody De Guzman, center, join protesters at a rally outside the venue of the official canvassing of votes by the Commission on Elections, accusing President Rodrigo Duterte and the poll body of rigging the automated May 13 midterm elections Friday, May 17, 2019 in suburban Pasay city south of Manila, Philippines. AP

Duterte's allies dominate Senate race

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president's allies won a majority of the 12 Senate seats at stake in the midterm elections, official results showed, while the opposition's shutout heralds a stronger grip on power by a leader accused of massive human rights violations.

Elections officials were to proclaim the winners Wednesday after finishing the official count of the May 13 elections overnight. The tally had been delayed by glitches in automated counting machines.

President Rodrigo Duterte backed eight winning aspirants to half of the seats in the 24-member Senate, including his former national police chief, Ronald dela Rosa, who enforced the president's crackdown on illegal drugs in a campaign that left thousands of suspects dead and drew international condemnation.

Last week's vote has been seen as a gauge of public support for Duterte, who is midway through the single six-year term Philippine presidents are allowed under the constitution. His anti-drug crackdown, unorthodox leadership style, combative and sexist joke-laden outbursts, and contentious embrace of China have been the hallmarks of his presidency.

Duterte's three children also won races for mayor, vice mayor and a congressional seat representing their southern home region of Davao city.

Analysts say many Filipinos seem more open to authoritarianism due to failures of past liberal leaders. Such a mindset has helped the family of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos make a political comeback, the latest example being his daughter, Imee Marcos, one of the winning Senate candidates who was endorsed by Duterte.

The president has aimed for stronger leverage in the traditionally more independent Senate to bolster his legislative agenda. That includes the return of the death penalty, lowering the age for criminal liability below the current 15, and revising the 1987 constitution primarily to allow a shift to a federal form of government, a proposal some critics fear may be a cover to remove term limits.

The handful of opposition senators whose seats were not up for election and the independents who won office last week could potentially offset the strong majority Duterte's allies hold in the new upper chamber. At least seven senators are needed to block amendments to the constitution, which was passed with safeguards against dictatorship in 1987, a year after Marcos was ousted by an army-backed "people power" revolt.

Opposition aspirants, who were set back by a lack of funding and other campaign issues, considered the Senate the last bastion of checks and balances in the Philippine national government given the solid dominance of Duterte's loyalists in the lower House of Representatives.

N. Korea calls Biden 'fool of low IQ' over Kim criticism

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea has labeled Joe Biden a "fool of low IQ" and an "imbecile bereft of elementary quality as a human being" after the U.S. presidential hopeful called North Korean leader Kim Jong Un a tyrant during a recent speech.

Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency on Wednesday said the former American vice president had insulted the country's supreme leadership and committed an "intolerable and serious politically-motivated provocation" against the North.

Biden during a campaign launch in Philadelphia on Saturday accused President Donald Trump of cozying up to "dictators and tyrants" like Kim and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"What he uttered is just sophism of an imbecile bereft of elementary quality as a human being, let alone a politician," KCNA said.

It added: "There is nonstop comment over his bid for candidacy that he is not worth pinning hope on, backed by the jeer that he is a fool of low IQ," KCNA said.

"Yet, he is self-praising himself as being the most popular presidential candidate. This is enough to make a cat laugh," the report said. There was no immediate reaction from the Biden camp, possibly due to the late hour in the United States.

North Korea has often unleashed crude insults against U.S. and South Korean politicians in past years to criticize what its saw as insults to its leadership or hostile diplomatic and military policies against Pyongyang. The insults have included racist and sexist diatribes, including when the North called former President Barack Obama "a monkey" and former South Korean President Park Geun-hye, the country's first female leader, a prostitute.

During tensions created by a provocative run in missile tests in 2017, Kim called Trump a "mentally deranged U.S. dotard" after said that the United States would "totally destroy North Korea" if forced to defend itself or its allies.

World

'Islamic State revival in Iraq must be prevented'

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. envoy for Iraq called Tuesday for "wide-based international support" to prevent Islamic State extremists from regaining a foothold in the country.

Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert also told the Security Council that if the issue of thousands of returning Islamic State fighters and their families from Syria to Iraq isn't managed properly "we risk creating a new breeding ground for the next generation of terrorists."

She stressed that this "is not just an Iraqi problem" because there are non-Iraqi fighters as well, and she implicitly criticized some unnamed countries that are maintaining a "strategic distance" from their own nationals.

The Islamic State extremist group, which seized Iraqi cities and declared a self-styled Islamic caliphate in a large swathe of territory it took control of in Syria and Iraq in 2014, was formally declared defeated in Iraq in 2017 following a three-year bloody battle that left tens of thousands dead and Iraqi cities in ruins. But the group's sleeper cells continue to launch attacks in different parts of Iraq.

Hennis-Plasschaert said that on an encouraging note the capital Baghdad "is opening up" and "very soon" the high-security Green Zone where many government offices and embassies are located "will no longer exist." But she said the security situation in the capital and throughout the country will require close monitoring because the threat from the Islamic State extremist group "is still out there."

The U.N. envoy quoted an unnamed representative of the U.S.-led coalition in the country as saying recently that IS "is resurging. They rested, moved and are active."

Hennis-Plasschaert said "another dominant security concern" is "armed actors" operating outside the government who are engaged in illegal or criminal activities which undermine state authority, weaken the economy and prevent the return of thousands of displaced people.

She briefed the Security Council after it unanimously adopted a resolution extending the mandate of the U.N. political mission in Iraq that she leads until May 31, 2020.

More broadly, Hennis-Plasschaert also criticized political infighting in Iraq that has blocked key ministerial appointments a year after national elections, and corruption which is "pervasive at all levels in Iraq."

She alluded to escalating tensions between the U.S. and Iran which have raised concerns that Iraq could once again get caught in the middle, just as it is on the path to recovery. The country hosts more than 5,000 U.S. troops, and is home to powerful Iranian-backed militias, some of whom want those U.S. forces to leave.

Hennis-Plasschaert said she was pleased to report that Iraq's leaders continue to reach out to their regional and international counterparts, positioning the country "as a reliable partner."

"Iraq could well be a stabilizing factor in a turbulent region and instead of an arena for conflict, Iraq could well offer a space for regional reconciliation, preparing the ground for a regional security dialogue," she said.

"At the same time, we cannot ignore that Iraq faces serious challenges in preventing its territory from becoming the theater for different competitions," Hennis-Plasschaert said. "So, to all those feeling challenged: placing a further burden on Iraq is truly, the last thing it needs."

WORLD BRIEFS

Brazilian fatally stabs girlfriend, shoots 3 dead at church

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—A man knifed his girlfriend to death in her home Tuesday, then went to a Baptist church and opened fire with a pistol, killing three more people, authorities said. The gunman was then shot and wounded by military police at the church in Paracatu in Minais Gerais state, officials said. He was reported in serious condition at a hospital late Tuesday. Authorities identified him as Rudson Aragao Guimaraes, 39. The attack took place in the Bela Vista neighborhood of Paracatu, which is a city of 80,000 inhabitants. Officials said a closed meeting of about 20 churchgoers was being held at the time of the shooting. Authorities did not provide a motive for the attack, but said the wounded man had been expelled by the church for "problems of behavior."

UN envoy warns Libya is on verge of descending to civil war

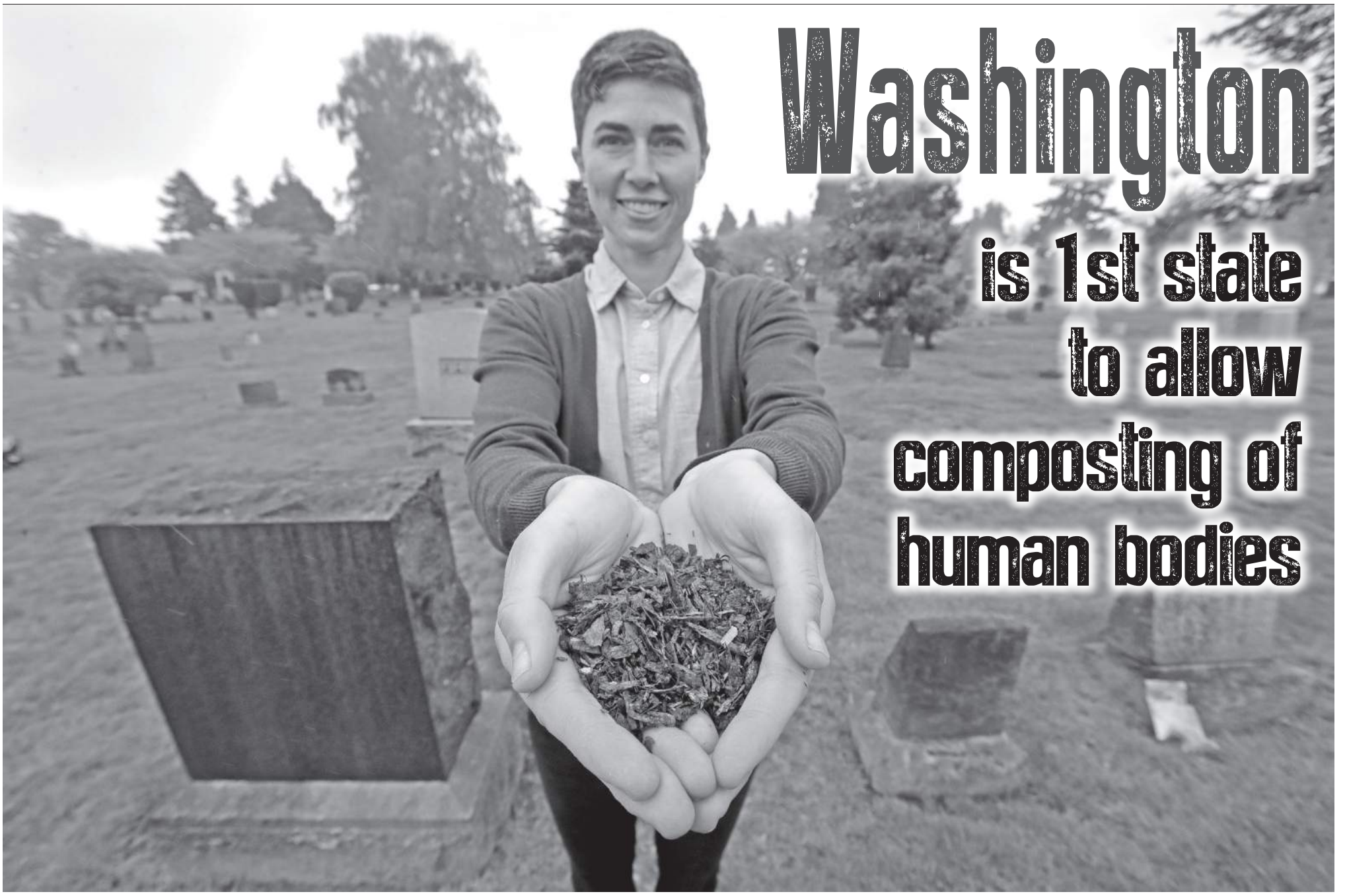
UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. envoy for Libya warned Tuesday that the oil-rich nation "is on the verge of descending into a civil war" that could divide the country and imperil the security of its neighbors and the wider Mediterranean region. Ghassan Salame told the Security Council that extremists from the Islamic State and al-Qaida are already exploiting the security vacuum sparked by the offensive to take the capital Tripoli launched April 4 by the self-styled Libyan National Army led by Field Marshal Khalifa Hifter. He said the black flags of the Islamic State extremist group are appearing in southern Libya and there have been four attacks by its fighters in the south since April 4 that together have killed 17 people, wounded more than 10 and led to eight kidnappings. "Libyan forces that had in the past courageously defended their country against these terrorist groups are now busy fighting each other," Salame said.

Mexico to auction off seized luxury goods to help poor

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador hasn't just moved out of the luxurious president's residence, he's using it to auction off seized luxury goods to raise money for poor communities. After he took office Dec. 1, López Obrador stayed in his middle-class condominium and turned the Los Pinos residence into a museum and cultural venue. But on Sunday, the sprawling compound will host the first of several auctions of seized luxury goods, including a 2007 Lamborghini Murcielago, with an estimated worth about $73,000. If that's too expensive, there is a 2014 Mercedes Benz ML63 at about $20,000. There are also, interestingly, lots of bullet-proof cars up for bid. Proceeds will go to two of Mexico's poorest townships, Santo Reyes Yucuná and Santa María Sanir in Oaxaca state. López Obrador's new Institute to Return Stolen Goods to the People will continue with auctions of real estate and jewelry, most confiscated from criminals or in tax cases. Some of the seized properties have been loaned out for use by non-governmental groups but will eventually be sold in other auctions to raise money.

Environment

Washington is 1st state to allow composting of human bodies



AP

In this April 19, 2019, file photo, Katrina Spade, the founder and CEO of Recompose, a company that hopes to use composting as an alternative to burying or cremating human remains, poses for a photo in a cemetery in Seattle, as she displays a sample of compost material left from the decomposition of a cow using a combination of wood chips, alfalfa and straw. On Tuesday, May 21, 2019, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee signed a bill into law that allows licensed facilities to offer "natural organic reduction," which turns a body, mixed with substances such as wood chips and straw, into soil in a span of several weeks. Th law makes Washington the first state in the U.S. to approve composting as an alternative to burying or cremating human remains.

By GENE JOHNSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE (AP)—Ashes to ashes, guts to dirt.

Gov. Jay Inslee signed legislation Tuesday making Washington the first state to approve composting as an alternative to burying or cremating human remains.

It allows licensed facilities to offer "natural organic reduction," which turns a body, mixed with substances such as wood chips and straw, into about two wheelbarrows' worth of soil in a span of several weeks.

Loved ones are allowed to keep the soil to spread, just as they might spread the ashes of someone who has been cremated — or even use it to plant vegetables or a tree.

"It gives meaning and use to what happens to our bodies after death," said Nora Menkin, executive director of the Seattle-based People's Memorial Association, which helps people plan for funerals.

Supporters say the method is an environmentally friendly alternative to cremation, which releases carbon dioxide and particulates into the air, and conventional burial, in which people are drained of their blood, pumped full of formaldehyde and other chemicals that can pollute groundwater, and placed in a nearly indestructible coffin, taking up land.

"That's a serious weight on the earth and the environment as your final farewell," said Sen. Jamie Pedersen, the Seattle Democrat who sponsored the measure.

He said the legislation was inspired by his neighbor: Katrina Spade, who was an architecture graduate student at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, when she began researching the funeral industry. She came up with the idea for human composting, modeling it on a practice farmers have long used to dispose of livestock.

She tweaked the process and found that wood chips, alfalfa and straw created a mixture of nitrogen and carbon that accelerates natural decomposition when a body is placed in a temperature- and moisture-controlled vessel and rotated.

A pilot project at Washington State University tested the idea last year on six bodies, all donors who Spade said wanted to be part of the study.

In 2017, Spade founded Recompose, a company working to bring the concept to the public. It's working on raising nearly $7 million to establish a facility in Seattle and begin to expand elsewhere, she said.

State law previously dictated that remains be disposed of by burial or cremation. The law, which takes effect in May 2020, added composting as well as alkaline hydrolysis, a process already legal in 19 other states. The latter uses heat, pressure, water and chemicals like lye to reduce remains.

Cemeteries across the country are allowed to offer natural or "green" burials, by which people are buried in biodegradable shrouds or caskets without being embalmed. Composting could be a good option in cities where cemetery land is scarce, Pedersen said. Spade described it as "the urban equivalent to natural burial."

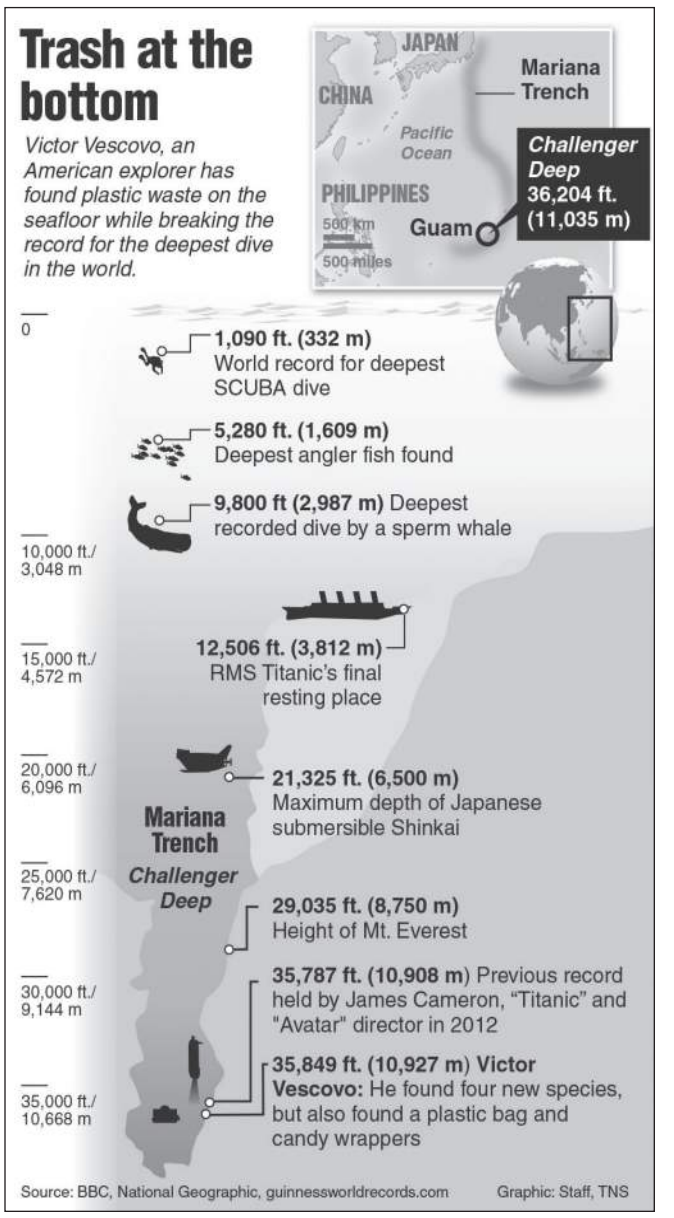
The state senator said he has received angry emails from people who object to the idea, calling it undignified or disgusting.

"The image they have is that you're going to toss Uncle Henry out in the backyard and cover him with food scraps," Pedersen said.

To the contrary, he said, the process will be respectful.

Recompose's website envisions an atrium-like space where bodies are composted in compartments stacked in a honeycomb design. Families will be able to visit, providing an emotional connection typically missing at crematoriums, the company says.

"It's an interesting concept," said Edward Bixby, president of the Placerville, California-based Green Burial Council. "I'm curious to see how well it's received."


Trash at the bottom
Victor Vescovo, an American explorer has found plastic waste on the seafloor while breaking the record for the deepest dive in the world.
JAPAN
CHINA
Pacific Ocean
PHILIPPINES
Mariana Trench
Challenger Deep
36,204 ft. (11,035 m)
Guam
500 km
500 miles
0
1,090 ft. (332 m) World record for deepest SCUBA dive
5,280 ft. (1,609 m) Deepest angler fish found
9,800 ft (2,987 m) Deepest recorded dive by a sperm whale
10,000 ft./ 3,048 m
12,506 ft. (3,812 m) RMS Titanic's final resting place
15,000 ft./ 4,572 m
20,000 ft./ 6,096 m
21,325 ft. (6,500 m) Maximum depth of Japanese submersible Shinkai
Mariana Trench
Challenger Deep
25,000 ft./ 7,620 m
29,035 ft. (8,750 m) Height of Mt. Everest
30,000 ft./ 9,144 m
35,787 ft. (10,908 m) Previous record held by James Cameron, "Titanic" and "Avatar" director in 2012
35,849 ft. (10,927 m) Victor Vescovo: He found four new species, but also found a plastic bag and candy wrappers
35,000 ft./ 10,668 m
Source: BBC, National Geographic, guinnessworldrecords.com
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Life & Style

Recreating 'Aladdin's' magic with Will Smith and fresh faces

By LINDSEY BAHR and CINDY MARTIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In 1992, Disney transported audiences to the mythical land of Agrabah, where they met a street rat with a heart of gold, a flying carpet, a headstrong princess and a magical genie with some oddly current pop culture references. With the music and lyrics of Alan Menken, Howard Ashman and Tim Rice, "Aladdin" would go on to win the hearts of millions and become the highest-grossing picture of the year.

It was an ambitious animation project that paid off and generated decades of fan goodwill, not to mention the two Oscars and a future Broadway musical. Now, following in the lucrative footsteps of "Beauty and the Beast" and others, the studio is taking another shot at "Aladdin," this time in live-action. The film, from director Guy Ritchie, opens nationwide Friday.

But how do you recreate the magic of "Aladdin" without the help of a genie's lamp?

Well, getting a movie star like Will Smith on board doesn't hurt. Smith agreed to play the Genie. The part was originated by the late Robin Williams, who brought his signature irreverence and wit and modern references to the role. But even with Smith's bona fides, he was nervous. Williams' performance has become iconic in the past 27 years. In other words, it would be a tough act to follow.

"It was not a no-brainer," Smith said. "I was really terrified at first. You know, you have to be careful with these types of films that mark people's childhoods."

AP
This image released by Disney shows Mena Massoud as Aladdin, left, and Will Smith as Genie in Disney's live-action adaptation of the 1992 animated classic "Aladdin."

Smith and the filmmakers knew that remaking "Aladdin " would inevitably involve a delicate dance of paying homage to the original while also modernizing some aspects of the story, including casting ethnically appropriate leads, who could sing and dance and carry a large scale production, and giving a character like Princess Jasmine more agency.

They found Egyptian-born and Canada-raised actor Mena Massoud to play Aladdin and British actress Naomi Scott, who is of half South Asian descent, to play Jasmine.

"She was one of my favorite princesses," Scott said. "I think I gravitated toward her because of her strength and because I felt like I saw myself in her."

In this film, she's fighting for equality and the opportunity to succeed her father as Sultan.

"It's just about her being human and more well-rounded," said Scott.

She even gets her own empowerment anthem in a new original song called "Speechless," written by Menken, and fellow Oscar-winning songwriters Benj Pasek and Justin Paul ("The Greatest Showman," ''La La Land").

Menken was the bridge between past and present for the production, and said he had to be both the "keeper of the flame of the original" and "part of a new team."

"When you're working at Disney you have a lot of people keeping an eye, a very careful eye, on the legacy," Menken said. "So I am very protective."

Naturally, the filmmakers wanted to give the production an epic feeling fitting of an overseas action-adventure musical.

"Aladdin" was shot on a massive soundstage outside of London, where the Agrabah set spanned the size of two football fields, and on location in Jordan, including at Wadi Rum. It was not lost on Ritchie that "Lawrence of Arabia" was also filmed there. Since there's no real city of Agrabah, production designer Gemma Jackson ("Game of Thrones") used elements of Moroccan, Persian and Turkish architecture as inspiration.

As far as musical numbers go, the biggest production of the film by far is the "Prince Ali" sequence, where Aladdin, with the Genie's help, enters the city as they think royalty would, boasting of his great wealth, bravery and an assortment of animals including 75 golden camels, 53 peacocks and 95 white Persian monkeys.

Ritchie employed 250 dancers and 200 extras to flesh out the world and commissioned a 30-foot high camel made of 37,000 flower heads for "Ali" to ride in on.

"It's one of the biggest dance sequences you'll ever see in a movie. It's the sequence I'm most proud of," Smith said. "You got to go check it out. It's hot."

While there will be many, many familiar touchstones for audiences from the songs to the score to even some of the dialogue, there are some ways the live-action film had to deviate from the original.

Oman author Jokha Alharthi wins Booker International Prize

LONDON (AP)—Omani author Jokha Alharthi won the prestigious Man Booker International Prize on Tuesday for "Celestial Bodies," the story of three sisters in a desert country confronting its slave-owning past and a complex modern world.

Alharthi is the first Arabic-language writer to get the prize and the first female writer from Oman to be translated into English. She will split the 50,000 pound ($64,000) purse with her U.K.-based translator, Marilyn Booth.

Historian Bettany Hughes, who led the judging panel, said the "lyrical" winning novel was "a book to win over the head and the heart in equal measure."

"Celestial Bodies" confronts Oman's history of slavery, which was abolished in the country only in 1970.

"It's a sensitive subject and kind of a taboo," Alharthi said in onstage interview at the awards ceremony in London. "But I think literature is the best platform to discuss sensitive issues. And slavery is not exclusive to Oman—it's part of human history."

She said her victory meant "a window has been opened to Arabic literature."

"Celestial Bodies" beat five other finalists from Europe and South America, including last year's winner, Olga Tokarczuk of Poland.

The prize is a counterpart to the Man Booker Prize for English-language novels and is open to books in any language that have been translated into English.

This is the final year of sponsorship by investment firm Man Group PLC, which is halting backing after 18 years. Starting next year the award will be known as the International Booker Prize.

Man tells wife his travel plans on need-to-know basis

DEAR ABBY: I could use your advice on training my husband. He refuses to enter his work travel schedule on the household calendar. He snapped at me this week when he finally revealed that he was leaving Sunday. It took three more days to get the date he was coming back. It was like pulling teeth. It left me with only two days to decide how to enjoy the time alone. I suspect that he's withholding his travel data to keep me from enjoying myself too much while he's gone.

I think it's disrespectful to keep your wife in the dark until just a day or two before you leave. I need a way to motivate my man to share his travel dates earlier. I'm at the point where I'm tempted to ignore him and his travel since he is acting more like a child than a husband. I'm not his mommy, and I need to break his mean streak. Advice?

KEPT IN THE DARK IN LOUISIANA

DEAR KEPT: Stop putting yourself at your husband's mercy. You are both adults. If you need a break and would like to schedule appointments, see a play, visit with friends, go on a trip, whatever—schedule it regardless of when your husband will be traveling. And ENJOY yourself.

DEAR ABBY: I have worked for the same doctor for 29 years. My 30-year anniversary is approaching. People think I should be ready to retire when he does. The problem is, I live paycheck to paycheck, and there is no retirement plan. What little money I had saved went out the window when I got a divorce a few years ago.

I know I need to quit and go somewhere that offers REAL benefits, but I feel like leaving will create a huge rift. I adore the patients, and I know they will ask him what happened. I don't want to seem ungrateful.

I know it's my fault for not demanding more earlier. I get depressed when patients tell me about their retirement plans, or I hear about his. I will be working until I die. I'm afraid he will take the staff out for a nice lunch to celebrate my 30 years, and I will be so sad or bitter that I won't be able to hide it.

LIVING PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK

DEAR LIVING: Talk to your boss about your dilemma NOW. In light of the fact that you have worked for him for so long, perhaps he will consider instituting a retirement plan now. If he is unwilling, then it's time to look for other employment with better compensation and hope you can find a match even if it means missing the luncheon.

DEAR ABBY: Please enlighten me on etiquette. My friend and I were out to lunch. While we were sitting there, she got on Facebook and posted about it. I think it was rude of her not to ask if I minded. It's not a secret, but why put it on Facebook? I don't understand why people think they have to advertise everything they do. Do they do it because they want to feel important?

OLD-FASHIONED WOMAN

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR OLD-FASHIONED: I am sure some of them do. Others may do it because they want to memorialize the occasion or think others are actually interested. If you preferred that she not do it, you should have spoken up, told her you are a private person and asked her to please not mention your name or post your image in the future.

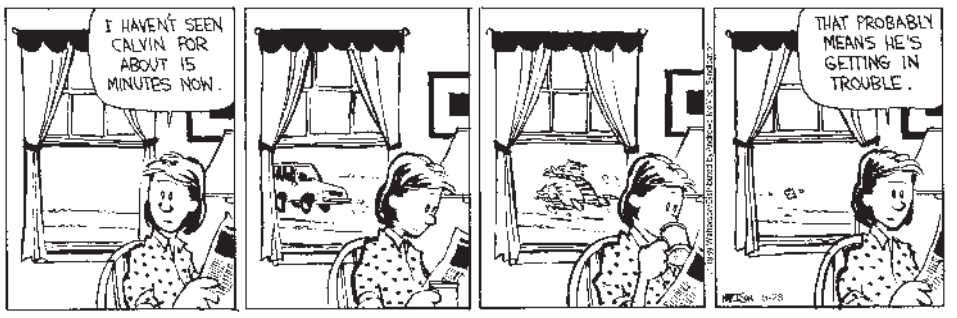
READER ALERT! If you know a student who would like to enter the $5,000 Dear Abby College Columnist Scholarship Contest, see the information at DearAbby.com/scholarship and learn more. The deadline is fast approaching.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

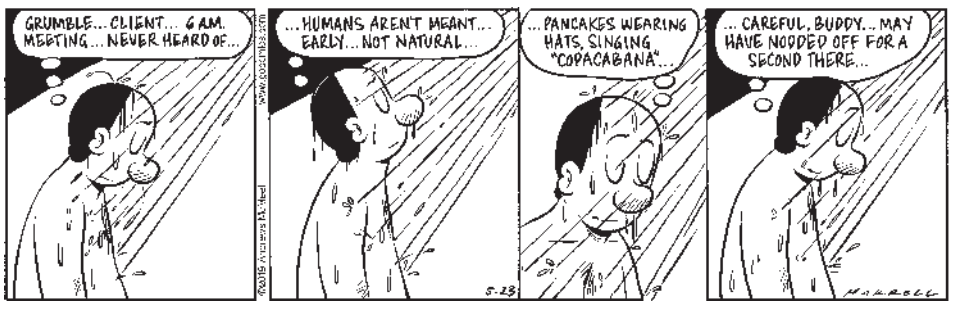


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


GRUMBLE... CLIENT... 6 AM. MEETING... NEVER HEARD OF...
...HUMANS AREN'T MEANT... EARLY... NOT NATURAL...
...PANCAKES WEARING HATS, SINGING "COPACABANA"...
...CAREFUL, BUDDY... MAY HAVE NODDED OFF FOR A SECOND THERE...

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I DECIDED TO TRY MY HAND AT WRITING ROMANCE.
"BOB SAID, 'DO YOU WANT TO WATCH BOWLING OR GO FISHING?'
"...OR JUST SIT AND DRINK BEER?" GLORIA REPLIED "YOU'RE EVERYTHING I'VE EVER DREAMED OF. BOWLING AND BEER PLEASE?"
I HOPE PUBLISHERS DON'T FIND IT TOO STEAMY.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

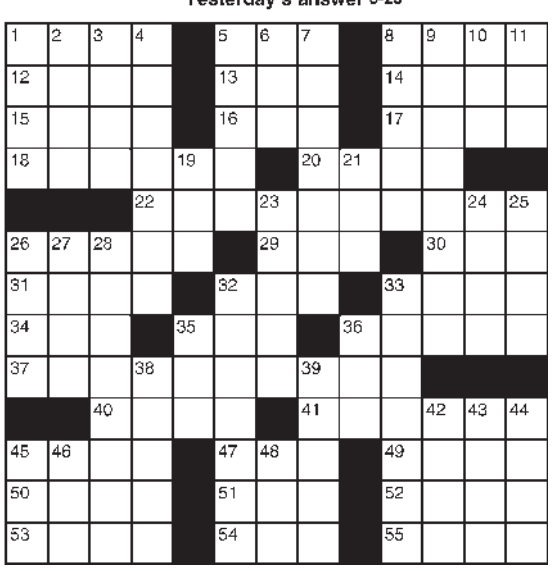
1 Cuts off
5 Cookout, briefly
8 Gridlock sound
12 Jacob's brother
13 Actress Lucy
14 In — land
15 Goatee's spot
16 Here (Fr.)
17 Saharan
18 Submit
20 Give temporarily
22 Blue blood
26 Tour vehicles
29 Toe count
30 Actress Hagen
31 Sciences' partner
32 Auction signal
33 Urban haze
34 Vitamin stat
35 Architect I.M. —
36 Stinging insects
37 Administrative worker
40 Lean to one side
41 Redacted
45 Poker variety
47 — Victor
49 Art Deco master
50 Carton sealer
51 Texas tea
52 Albacore, e.g.
53 Cold War initials
54 '60s war zone
55 Once around the sun

DOWN

1 Nobelist Walesa
2 Job-safety org.
3 Ache
4 Ice cream parlor orders
5 Russian pancakes
6 Pen name
7 Took part in a bee
8 Mel of many voices
9 Hearing aids?
10 Inventor Whitney
11 Knee protector
19 1040 org.
21 Many millennia
23 Unemotional
24 Perched on
25 Labels
26 Biting remark
27 Pakistani language
28 New companies
32 Uncharged particle
33 Full feeling
35 Crony
36 Bankroll
38 Duck down
39 Kingdom
42 Loyal
43 Sicilian spouter
44 Beloved
45 R-V link
46 Prof's helpers
48 Spy org.

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kelly Monaco, 43; Jewel, 45; Drew Carey, 61; Joan Collins, 86.

Happy Birthday: Take time to review your choices. Lean toward the opportunities that will ease stress, not create it. How you handle responsibilities and demanding people will determine how well you will do in the future. Now is the time to look inward and satisfy your needs. Clear a path that will lead to greater freedom to pursue what makes you happy. Your numbers are 9, 16, 22, 27, 30, 42, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Before you let anger take over, consider what's setting you off and why. Ulterior motives are apparent and could set you up for a fall. Be observant, bide your time and use your common sense to avoid conflict. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You are ready for a change, and now is a good time to start. Pick up information, skills or anything else you might need to achieve your objective. A physical update, romance or lifestyle change will enhance your life. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* A suggestion will prompt you to venture down a path you never considered. Gauge how much time it will take and if you have the resources to finish what you start before you invest too much. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Jump into action. How you progress will depend on your willingness to do your part. You can make a difference if you sign up for events that are geared toward making the world a better place. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Stay focused on what's important to you, and disregard those who are trying to annoy you. Be smart about the way you handle situations. Use your intelligence to outsmart anyone who is playing emotional games with you. Expand your interests. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Pay attention to the personal adjustments you want to make. Listen to your heart, and rely on common sense and discipline. Stick to your plan, and don't spend more than you can afford. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* The tide is turning, and relief is on its way. Your thoughts are beginning to take shape, and you will be able to make sense out of what's unfolding around you. Focus on your health, your assets and what you want to accomplish. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Keep your emotions in check. If you don't have a thoughtful answer, don't say anything. The actions you take should be enough to let the people you care about know who you are and what you are willing to do. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Think twice before you spend. How you handle your personal finances will make a difference to the way others view you. Too much of anything will end up dragging you down. Use your intelligence and compassion when dealing with loved ones. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A change at home will lift your spirits. Find out what others want to see happen before you get started. Working together to improve your standard of living or lifestyle will also entice loved ones to pitch in and help. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Say what's on your mind. If you let someone take advantage of you, it will disrupt your plans. Greater involvement in helping others will motivate you to use your intelligence and skills to make a difference. Don't take a physical risk. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* How you spend your time and use your talents will impress onlookers. Some will appreciate what you do and be eager to work alongside you, and others will try to take advantage of what you have to offer. Choose wisely. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are talkative, compassionate and helpful. You are innovative and unpredictable.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9			2					
7				3	9		8	
6	1					4		
							6	3
	6			1			2	
4	8							
		9					3	5
	4		8	6				7
					7			8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	8	6	1	9	7	4	2	5
5	1	9	2	4	6	7	8	3
4	7	2	3	8	5	6	1	9
9	3	4	6	7	1	8	5	2
7	5	1	8	2	3	9	6	4
2	6	8	4	5	9	1	3	7
8	2	3	7	1	4	5	9	6
6	4	5	9	3	8	2	7	1
1	9	7	5	6	2	3	4	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CAROL CHANNING (1921-2019) Solution: 10 letters

L	D	E	N	I	A	L	E	L	Z	Z	A	D	H	L
E	R	E	A	B	L	O	N	D	E	S	U	G	A	R
L	A	A	D	R	L	R	V	E	I	L	L	I	M	I
Z	M	Y	E	L	I	A	B	S	S	H	O	W	Y	G
Z	A	G	L	P	M	C	T	L	A	E	Z	I	F	O
A	O	Y	A	P	D	U	O	L	W	S	Z	L	O	L
R	N	P	I	L	C	R	E	O	U	Y	A	L	O	D
G	A	S	D	K	E	X	L	B	D	P	J	I	P	E
N	I	A	E	L	A	S	I	E	P	I	O	A	B	N
I	T	R	E	N	E	N	M	E	E	D	K	M	A	G
N	S	I	D	L	M	O	R	G	G	S	Y	S	B	L
N	I	E	R	O	C	S	A	O	N	A	N	N	Y	O
A	R	A	N	D	Y	T	H	E	O	D	O	R	E	B
H	H	C	A	R	S	O	N	L	S	L	T	Y	U	E
C	C	K	I	N	G	I	N	G	E	R	K	O	O	B

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Adelaide, Alexander, Andy, Baby, Bailey, Blondes, Book, Burns, Carol, Carson, Channing, Charles Lowe, Christian, Comedy, Dazzle, Drama, Elaine, Flapper, Ginger, Girl, Golden Globe, Jazz, King, Lorelei, Loud, Millie, Nanny, Omnibus, Pearl, Poofy, Raspy, Razzle, Roger, Score, Show, Skidoo, Song, Stage, Stucker, Sugar, Theodore, Tony, Vamp, Williams

Yesterday's Answer: Appliances

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CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-DFEMS-089

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 06, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

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/S/ JUAN A. PUA
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DFEMS

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
RFQ NO.: RFQ19-JUDICIARY-068

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 10, 2019 • TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"ARCHITECT-ENGINEER SERVICES ROOF, WALLS, WINDOWS, DOORS, AND VESTIBULE FOR THE GUMA' HUSTISIA, IIMWAL AWEEWE, HOUSE OF JUSTICE SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT REQUIREMENT AND APPOINTMENT REQUESTS MUST BE IN WRITING E-MAILED TO **MR. JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ, CNMI JUDICIARY BUDGET & FINANCE DIRECTOR** TO john.villagomez@justice.gov.mp WITHIN AT LEAST THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE FOR QUALIFICATIONS STATEMENT SUBMISSION.

A **PRE-SUBMISSION MEETING** IS SCHEDULED FOR **09:30 A.M., LOCAL TIME, MAY 29, 2019** AT THE **GUMA' HUSTISIA ASSEMBLY HALL.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/s/ DAVID DLG, ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

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/s/ Cui Ziwen
President

WHATZIT Solution: First aid

EMPLOYMENT

Eucon International School is in need of ACCOUNTANT. The accountant, receiving general guidance from the school's Finance Manager. Performs the operational functions of the school's accounting office in planning, organizing, and conducting all accounting operations and the school's administrative internal audit. Ensures timely accounting reporting to the Finance Manager. Adheres to accepted accounting principles, and Performs complex accounting duties with a high level of independence and professional discretion. Must have a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy degree with at least 5 years of progressive work experience as an Accountant. Closing date of accepting applicant is on June 12, 2019. Work Location: Eucon International School, Kulales Place, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Gualo Rai. Mail Address: P.O. Box 500087, Saipan, MP 96950. E-mail address: Dr. Christian Wei at drchristianwei@gmail.com

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Raptors roll past Bucks to even East finals

TORONTO (AP)—With a weary Kawhi Leonard fighting through fatigue, the Toronto Raptors found enough energy to pull away from the Milwaukee Bucks.

Kyle Lowry led the way.

Lowry scored 25 points, Leonard had 19 and the Raptors beat the Milwaukee Bucks 120-102 on Tuesday night to even the Eastern Conference finals at two games apiece.

"This was one of the nights that we knew Kawhi was a little bit limited and we had to come out and be aggressive for him," Lowry said.

Leonard played 52 minutes in a double-overtime win in Game 3 on Sunday despite dealing with leg soreness. He limped away from the basket following a third-quarter dunk in Game 4, but still toughed it out for 34 minutes.

"I feel good," Leonard insisted. "I'm going to keep going and keep fighting. We have a chance to make history."

Raptors coach Nick Nurse said he's not worried about Leonard's health.

"He's certainly tired, like a lot of guys in this series are," Nurse said. "He looks OK to me. There was one time I was trying to give him an extended rest and he didn't really want it so he must be OK."

Serge Ibaka had 17 points and 13 rebounds for the Raptors, who improved to 7-2 at home this postseason. Reserve Norm Powell scored 18 points, and Marc Gasol had 17 points and a team-high seven assists.

"The first two games, they really brought the intensity to us," Powell said. "They really came out and were more physical, more active. We wanted to change that narrative coming home."

The home team has won all four games in the series so far. Game 5 is Thursday night in Milwaukee.

"We need to take this challenge of playing in a hostile environment," Nurse said. "We're going into a tough, loud place to play. Let's see if those guys can bring that same pop and focus and determination on the road."

AP

Toronto Raptors guard Kyle Lowry (7) shoots against Milwaukee Bucks centre Brook Lopez (11) during the first half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball playoffs Eastern Conference finals, Tuesday, May 21, 2019, in Toronto.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 25 points and 10 rebounds for the top-seeded Bucks. Khris Middleton scored 30 points, but no one else had more than 11.

Milwaukee lost its second straight following a six-game winning streak. It dropped consecutive games just once during the regular season, at Utah on March 2 and at Phoenix on March 4.

"This is probably the first night defensively where I don't feel like we were close to where you need to be," coach Mike Budenholzer said. "We got punched. They played really well."

Toronto's Fred VanVleet, who missed 16 of 20 shot attempts through the first three games of the series, went 5 for 6 from the field in Game 4. He made each of his three 3-point tries and finished with 13 points.

"He needed one of those games," Lowry said. "He played well and made some great plays tonight."

Ahead 94-81 to start the fourth, the Raptors extended their lead with a 10-3 spurt, including seven points from VanVleet. Powell's fast-break layup with 8:35 left put Toronto up 104-84.

"We've got to guard better," Middleton said. "Everybody on their team, I feel like they got pretty much whatever they wanted. Everything was easy."

Antetokounmpo shot 5 for 8 in the opening frame, matching the number of made baskets he had during Game 3. However, the Bucks star went 4 for 9 the rest of the way.

Leonard and Pascal Siakam, who both played more than 50 minutes Sunday, looked sluggish in the opening half. Leonard missed the only shot he took in the second, while Siakam played fewer than three minutes in the second after picking up his third foul. Siakam had two points at halftime.

Leonard came up limping after dunking against Antetokounmpo early in the third, but remained in the game. Moments later, Siakam completed a three-point play that put Toronto up 73-60 with 8:43 left.

"We just came out in the third quarter flat," Antetokounmpo said.

Ilyasova missed a 3 with 3:50 remaining in the third that could have cut the deficit to four points. Powell replied with a 3 and, following miss by Malcolm Brogdon, Leonard drained a jumper to push Toronto's lead to 86-74.

Griffin touts new Pelicans hires as Davis decision looms

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Pelicans basketball operations chief David Griffin asserted Tuesday that luring new general manager Trajan Langdon away from a playoff team in Brooklyn is an example of positive momentum in New Orleans that should make Anthony Davis reconsider his trade request.

Griffin said he hopes to meet with Davis in Los Angeles, where Davis has an offseason home, around the time player agents are hosting workouts in southern California for clients that are eligible for the NBA's June 20 draft.

"We'll definitely visit. And I think that's the next step—really to look each other in the eye and talk about what's important to us," Griffin said Tuesday during a conference call with the newly hired Langdon and reporters. "We're very optimistic from previous conversations with Rich Paul, his agent, and with all of the people here that know Anthony and know what he's about, we're very confident that we have a compelling situation for him here.

Davis, a six-time All-Star who is under contract one more season, requested a trade in late January, and his future will be one of the dominant stories of the upcoming NBA offseason.

"If winning is what he is indeed all about, which we have every reason to believe, we feel confident that we can create and are creating the right environment for Anthony —and frankly for high-caliber players of all types," Griffin said.

Griffin also described any reports that the consensus top player in next month's NBA draft, Duke star Zion Williamson, does not want to play in New Orleans as a "false narrative."

"We've sat with multiple players that we're looking at for that first pick," Griffin said, adding that he and Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry met with Williamson and his parents the night the Pelicans won the NBA's draft lottery.

Doncic, Young lead Top 5 rookies

NEW YORK (AP) — With Dallas' Luka Doncic and Atlanta's Trae Young leading the way, the top five NBA draft picks from 2018 have been selected as the top five NBA rookies this season.

Doncic and Young were unanimous first-team selections for the NBA All-Rookie team, which was announced Tuesday. Phoenix's Deandre Ayton, Memphis' Jaren Jackson and Sacramento's Marvin Bagley III are also on the first team, which was chosen by 100 voters who cover the league.

Ayton, Bagley, Doncic, Jackson and Young were the first five picks in the last year's draft.

This marks the first time since the 1984 draft that the first five picks ended up as first-team all-rookie—the selections that year being Hakeem Olajuwon, Sam Bowie, Michael Jordan, Sam Perkins, Charles Barkley. That was the entirety of the rookie team that season; the NBA didn't start doing first- and second-team selections until 1988-89.

The Hawks had two all-rookie selections this season, with Kevin Huerter on the second team to join Young. Also on the second team were a pair of Los Angeles Clippers, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Landry Shamet, along with Cleveland's Collin Sexton and New York's Mitchell Robinson.

Rookie of the year will be announced at the NBA Awards show in Los Angeles on June 24. Doncic, Young and Ayton are the finalists.

Doncic and Young join other unanimous first-team all-rookie picks over the last decade: Ben Simmons and Donovan Mitchell (2018), Malcolm Brogdon and Dario Saric (2017), Karl-Anthony Towns and Kristaps Porzingis (2016), Andrew Wiggins (2015), Michael Carter-Williams (2014), Damian Lillard (2013), Kyrie Irving (2012), Blake Griffin (2011) and Tyreke Evans, Brandon Jennings and Stephen Curry (2010).

Others receiving votes: Phoenix's Mikal Bridges, New York's Kevin Knox and Allonzo Trier, Minnesota's Josh Okogie, Dallas' Jalen Brunson, Brooklyn's Rodions Kurucs, Chicago's Wendell Carter Jr., Charlotte's Mile Bridges, Detroit's Bruce Brown, Sacramento's Harry Giles III, Orlando's Mo Bamba and Indiana's Aaron Holiday.

Kershaw gets 8 Ks, Dodgers beat Tampa Bay

AP
Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw delivers to the Tampa Bay Rays during the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, May 21, 2019, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

FLORIDA (AP)—Clayton Kershaw took a shutout into the seventh inning in his first start at Tropicana Field and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Tampa Bay Rays 7-3 on Tuesday night in St. Petersburg.

The three-time NL Cy Young Award winner (4-0) wound up allowing two runs, six hits, one walk and had eight strikeouts in 6 1/3 innings.

The Dodgers, with the National League's best record at 32-17, have won six of seven. Tampa Bay dropped two games behind the AL East-leading New York Yankees.

Justin Turner, Austin Barnes, Kiki Hernandez, Corey Seager and pinch-hitter Joc Pederson had run-scoring singles for the Dodgers.

Kershaw had scattered four hits through six but was replaced by Pedro Baez with two on and one out in the seventh and Los Angeles up 6-0.

The Rays then got within 6-3 on a run-scoring single by Austin Meadows and Tommy Pham's RBI double off Scott Alexander.

Los Angeles has won 15 consecutive regular season games starter by Kershaw.

Astros 5, White Sox 1

In Houston, Justin Verlander took a no-hitter into the seventh inning and struck out a season-high 12 to lead the Astros over the White Sox.

Verlander (8-1) allowed one hit and walked one in eight innings for his fourth straight win and the seventh in eight starts. The only hit off him came when Jose Abreu sent the first pitch of his at-bat just over the wall and out of reach of a leaping Jake Marisnick in straightaway center field with one out in the seventh to cut the lead to 5-1.

Yankees 11, Orioles 4

In Baltimore, Clint Frazier homered twice and had a career-high five RBIs, Gary Sanchez contributed a three-run drive and New York routed the Orioles.

New York made it easy for Domingo German (9-1) to win his sixth consecutive start and increase his major league-leading victory total. The right-hander pitched only five innings and left with a 9-3 lead.

David Hale worked the four innings to earn his first save since 2010 at Class A.

Blue Jays 10, Red Sox 3

In Toronto, Rowdy Tellez had two homers and five RBIs and Randal Grichuk also homered in the Blue Jays' win over Boston.

Toronto won for just the fifth time against Boston at Rogers Centre since the start of the 2017 season.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. returned to the Toronto lineup, going 2 for 5 with a pair of runs. Brandon Drury was 2 for 3 with three RBIs. The 10 runs tied a season high.

Mitch Moreland, Rafael Devers and Jackie Bradley Jr. all had solo shots for the Red Sox.

Marlins 5, Tigers 4, 11 Innings

In Detroit, Chad Wallach hit a tiebreaking double in the 11th inning, and the Marlins beat the Tigers

Detroit forced extra innings by scoring two unearned runs off Miami closer Sergio Romo. The bottom of the ninth included an error, two replay reversals and the ejection of Tigers manager Ron Gardenhire.

That was the only success Detroit had against the Miami bullpen, though. Nick Anderson (1-1) struck out the side in the 10th, then closed the Tigers out in the 11th for his first career win.

Giants 4, Braves 3

In San Francisco, Joe Panik hit a game-ending two-run single off Atlanta closer Luke Jackson with two outs in the ninth to lift the Giants.

Brandon Crawford began the comeback with a one-out single. With two out, Kevin Pillar singled in Crawford. Pillar stole second, and moved to third on Pablo Sandoval's pinch-hit infield single. Pinch-runner Mac Williamson stole second before Panik slapped a 3-2 pitch from Jackson into right field to cap the three-run rally.

Mets 6, Nationals 5

In New York, Pete Alonso hit a long tying homer in the eighth inning, Amed Rosario had a winning infield single with two outs in the ninth and the Mets rallied from deficits three times to beat Washington.

Edwin Diaz (1-2) worked around a ninth-inning single for his first win with the Mets. Washington lost its third straight.

Mets starter Zack Wheeler gave up three runs and four hits in seven innings.

Rockies 5, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, German Marquez struck out seven over eight dominant innings and Trevor Story hit his 11th home run as Colorado cooled off the surging Pirates.

Marquez (5-2) gave up three hits, walked one and didn't allow a runner to third base as the Rockies snapped a four-game losing streak.

Charlie Blackmon went 3 for 5 for Colorado, including a two-run triple to left off Chris Archer (1-4) in the fourth. Story homered for the second straight game.

Athletics 5, Indians 3

In Cleveland, pinch-hitter Mark Canha's two-run homer off struggling Indians starter Trevor Bauer in the third inning sent Oakland to its fifth straight win.

Canha replaced injured slugger Khris Davis and connected off Bauer (4-3).

Bauer walked four, struck out five and hit three while throwing a season-high 123 pitches.

Oakland reliever Liam Hendricks (2-0) pitched two scoreless innings and Blake Treinen, the A's fourth reliever, worked the ninth for his ninth save in 11 tries.

Reds 3, Brewers 0

In Milwaukee, Sonny Gray and three Cincinnati relievers held down the Brewers, who were missing Christian Yelich because of back spasms.

It was the major league-leading seventh shutout for the Reds as the Brewers were blanked for the first time this season.

Cincinnati scored all three runs in the first inning. Nick Senzel scored on a wild pitch, Phillip Ervin pushed a run across with a double and scored on a fielder's choice.

Rangers 5, Mariners 3

In Arlington, Lance Lynn allowed two runs over seven innings and Shawn Kelley earned the save hours after learning that two lumps removed from his throat last week were benign as Texas beat Seattle.

Lynn (6-3) gave up five singles and one walk and had a season-high 11 strikeouts and one walk in his 200th career start. Kelley, who was activated from the 10-day injured list on Tuesday, allowed a ninth-inning homer to Omar Narvaez.

Padres 3, Diamondbacks 2

In San Diego, Eric Hosmer's two-run, opposite-field home run off Zack Greinke highlighted the three-run sixth inning that carried the Padres past Arizona.

Greinke (6-2), who recorded his 2,500th career strikeout in the fourth, was working on a one-hit shutout when he ran into trouble in the sixth. Ian Kinsler singled with one out, advanced on Franmil Reyes' groundout and scored on Manny Machado's single. Hosmer then drove Greinke's next pitch to left field to give the Padres the lead.

Cubs 3, Phillies 2

In Chicago, pinch-hitter Javier Baez's single capped a two-run, ninth-inning rally and the Cubs stopped Philadelphia's four-game winning streak.

Kris Bryant had three hits for the Cubs and scored two runs.

Phillies slugger Bryce Harper went 0 for 4, dropping his average to .224, and failed to reach base at Wrigley Field for the first time in 19 games. Jean Segura doubled in the first to extend his hitting streak to 12 games.

Pats, Edelman agree to two-year extension

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—A person familiar with the situation says the New England Patriots have reached an agreement on a two-year extension with receiver Julian Edelman.

The deal is worth $18 million and includes an $8 million signing bonus and $12 million in guaranteed money.

The source spoke on the condition of anonymity Tuesday because terms have not been announced.

Edelman signed a two-year, $11 million extension in 2017. He was scheduled to make $2 million in base salary in 2019, with bonuses that pushed in close to $4 million. This extension keeps the 32-year-old under contract with the Patriots through the 2021 season.

A seventh-round pick by New England in 2009, it also gives the reigning Super Bowl MVP a chance to complete his career with the team he's helped win three rings.

Edelman missed the entire 2017 season with a torn ACL and the first four games of the 2018 season for violating the league's performance enhancers policy. But he helped steady New England down the stretch, finishing the season with 74 catches for 850 yards and six touchdowns.

In New York, the Jets have signed free-agent wide receiver-kick returner Deonte Thompson, who played last season for Buffalo and Dallas.

The Jets also announced Tuesday they have waived wide receiver Xavier Ubosi.

The 30-year-old Thompson has 94 catches for 1,193 yards and four touchdowns in seven NFL seasons. He also has averaged 24.8 yards on kickoff returns.

Thompson began last season with the Cowboys and had 14 receptions for 124 yards before being released. He signed with the Bills for a third stint with the team and had three catches for 37 yards in five games.

He was signed by Baltimore as an undrafted free agent out of Florida in 2012. Thompson also has played for Chicago, where current Jets coach Adam Gase was his offensive coordinator in 2015.

Injured Brooks, Yedlin to miss Gold Cup

AP
In this March 26, 2019, file photo, United States defender DeAndre Yedlin kicks the ball during the first half of an international friendly soccer match against Chile, in Houston.

MIAMI (AP)—The United States men's national team will be without two key defenders, and one sure-fire starter, when the 2019 Gold Cup kicks off next month.

John Brooks and DeAndre Yedlin were among those omitted from the USMNT's provisional 40-man roster, which was released Monday.

Yedlin's absence was expected. The Newcastle defender underwent groin surgery earlier this month. Brooks' absence, however, is a bit more of a surprise—and a bigger loss for the Americans.

Brooks missed the final two games of the German Bundesliga season with "medial ligament discomfort" in his knee. His omission from head coach Gregg Berhalter's 40-man list presumably indicates the injury is more serious than first feared.

Berhalter will trim the 40-man squad twice over the coming weeks. First, a training camp roster will be announced Wednesday. That roster—not all 40 players on the provisional list—will report to camp next week. A final 23-player roster will be named in early June.

Brooks would have started at center back. His combination of physical prowess and on-ball skills are unrivaled in the U.S. player pool. When healthy, he is an excellent fit as a left-sided center back in Berhalter's system. Unfortunately, the 26-year-old German-American hasn't been healthy for extended stretched early in his career.

Aaron Long, his presumed central defensive partner, has also been battling an injury, but is on the provisional roster, and will likely make the final 23.

That leaves once defensive starting spot open. Matt Miazga and Tim Ream could both fill it. If Ream is the choice, though, that leaves an opening at left back—where Ream played 90 minutes in both of the March friendlies.

Yedlin, meanwhile, is one of the USMNT's best players. But right back is suddenly a position of strength. Berhalter prefers Tyler Adams there, in a specialized role that allows him to become a fourth midfielder at times in possession. So while Yedlin is a loss, he's not as impactful a loss as Brooks is.

Given the size of the provisional roster, there were several names that raised eyebrows. It's important to not that 17 of them – and likely all the eyebrow-raising ones—will be cut within a week. But it's a window into who is on Berhalter's radar.

Meanwhile, Argentina included Lionel Messi, Sergio Aguero and Angel Di Maria in its Copa America squad, while Inter Milan striker Mauro Icardi was left out.

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni announced his list Tuesday, with the attacking trio of Messi, Di Maria and Aguero looking for their first major international title after losing three finals —at the 2014 World Cup and 2015 and 2016 Copa America.

Argentina hasn't won a major trophy since the 1993 Copa America in Ecuador.

Scaloni called up Aguero for the first time since taking over as interim coach following the World Cup in Russia, after the striker helped Manchester City complete a domestic treble in England.

"The figures speak for themselves," Scaloni said about Aguero. "We need to make the pieces fit so we give him the chance to do what he does for his club."

Icardi has been a regular in Scaloni's squads but he recently lost his starting position at Inter because of a contract dispute and the Argentina coach prefers to pick players that get more playing time for their teams.

Scaloni included nine players that were at the World Cup in Russia last year, mixed with a new generation that includes Tottenham defender Juan Foyth, Udinese midfielder Rodrigo de Paul and River Plate striker Exequiel Palacios.

"We are building something today," said Cesar Luis Menotti, the 1978 World Cup-winning coach who is now a director at Argentina's football federation. "The objective is to prepare for the World Cup, but that doesn't mean Copa America is not important."

TANHOLDINGS

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Tolentino countered in the ninth minute for the deadlock. Three minutes later, MP United regained the upper hand off Laarni Zapanta, while Karen Aglipay scored in the 14th minute to give their team more breathing room at the break.

When the game resumed, MP United struggled, while another goal from Tolentino in the 36th minute moved Kanoa within one. However, MP United hung on for the close win.

While MP United got quite a scare from Kanoa, TanHoldings rolled past Matansa-2 after drawing goals from three different players. Eun Benavente scored in the ninth minute, while Jessica Ortizo and Magie Chavez delivered in the 17th and 44th minute, respectively.

Shirley's 5, Paire 1

Meanwhile, Shirley's Football Club won its season debut in the 2019 Dove Spring Women's 11 vs 11 League after dominating Paire Football Club last Monday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Katrina Costales towed Shirley's to the easy win after posting a hat trick, which she delivered in succession. She started her string of goals in the 68th minute, while her last two were recorded in the 77th and 79th. Catherine Barroza drew first blood for Shirley's in the 18th minute, while Lilian Podziewski handed the team its second goal in the 66th. Guine Borja scored the lone goal for Paire.

SEEDED

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Zeng, 6-2, 6-0, and the South Koreans will wait for the winner in the second round match between No. 1 Matthew Garcia of the Philippines and Chinese-Taipei's Nan Hsun-Lin and the unseeded Kyohei and Shuhei Ohtani of Japan.

In the boys singles, No.1 Yunseok Jang swept Herbert, 6-0, 6-1, to arrange a third round match against the CNMI's Lee today.

Also making it to the third round were majority of the seeded players in the 64-player draw. The list includes No. 10 Dogeon Park, No. 4 Junhyun Lee, No. 8 Fujita, No. 6 Fu, No. 9 Jeon, No. 5 Oh, and No. 2 Lin.

In the girls singles, the quarterfinals cast was completed with South Korea's Gio Jang, Hui-Gyeong Kim, and Japan's Honoka Umeda bagging the last three spots. Umeda defeated fellow Japanese Kaho Nieda, 6-3, 1-6, 6-3, Jang topped Hong Kong's Man Wai Li, and Kim edged Japan's Hiromi Sekiguchi, 6-7 (4), 6-2, 6-4.

In the doubles, the CNMI's Malika Miyawaki and Tania Tan were downed by Chinese-Taipei's Jyun Yi Lee and Li Hsin-Lin.

Other winners in the doubles event yesterday were Russia's Sofiya Lebedeva and Hing Kong's Hannah Shen and Gio Jang and Li, who booted out Japan's Natsumi Numano and Rena Tanaka, 6-3, 6-4, and South Korea's Ji Eun Lee and Zimbabwe's Ruvashe Shoko, 7-5, 6-0, respectively.

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All Schools meet, while Santos swept the 400m, 800m, 1,500m, and 3,000m races. Roligat, They, and Acosta also won several medals in the event held at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Meanwhile, Rangamar and NMA have set modest goals for the team, as they hope the CNMI bets will make it past the first round (for runners) and get personal bests (for running and jumping events).

The Commonwealth is one of the 22 countries competing in the Oceania Athletics Association-organized tournament, which is expected to draw a record number of participants, as the event will also serve as a qualifier for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

MISSION

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in small-sided games for the first part of the event, while they joined their parents in more fun activities in the last part of the program.

The Antarticas' testimonies just showed that the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, which organized last weekend's event, has accomplished AFC's mission to introduce soccer to children in a fun and interactive setting. Involving parents was an added feature for this year's event, as NMIFA aims at bonding family members in the hope of encouraging parents to try their hand at coaching and help boost the grassroots program.

Martin Jambor has been coaching children under NMIFA's program, but it was the first time that he and his son, Quido, were able to do drills together.

"This kind of activity definitely strengthens the bond among family members and boosts the confidence of our children because they know we are here to guide and support them. I am so proud to see my son completing the drills and following instructions from coaches," Jambor said.

The grassroots program does not only help the parents and their children, but also the high-level players.

"We have our national team members assisting in the event and they are learning how to run a program specifically catered to young kids. These players are also our future coaches, so it's really important that they can see and experience how it is like to manage a team/group," NMIFA technical director Michiteru Mita said.

"We are very pleased with the turnout for this grassroots program. We have more than 100 kids and with the way they were doing the drills, you could really see that they enjoyed the event. We are also happy that a lot of parents showed up and were very receptive, as they took part in the fun activities," Mita added.

NMIFA president Jerry Tan, who was at the pitch last Saturday to witness the successful staging of the event, said the AFC-pioneered activity is an integral part of the soccer development program in the CNMI and NMIFA is committed to continue reaching out to young children to teach them skills and provide them with opportunities through the sport.

Mission accomplished at AFC Grassroots Football Day

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Coaches and players pose for a group photo at the conclusion of the 2019 Asian Football Confederation Grassroots Football Day last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Seven-year-old Nathan Antartica was one of the last players to stop doing drills when the whistle was blown signaling the end of the initial part of the 2019 Asian Football Confederation Grassroots Football Day and the first to re-enter the pitch when the second and last part of the program was about to start.

"This is so exciting and fun, the best game I ever had," said Antartica, as he held his dad's hand and ushered him toward the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville for the parent-children session of the event last Saturday.

"He has found the sport he enjoys doing and I am glad he did because I want him to be active, instead of staying at home and playing video games. We tried other sports in the past, but he lost interest quickly," Antartica's dad, Mong, said.

Nathan and the over 100 participants in last Saturday's event rounded different stations and performed drills, like shooting, dribbling, running around cones, and passing. They also played

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mong Antartica, left, and his son, Nathan are among the first ones to line up at the pitch, while waiting for the start of the second part of the program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Green Meadow School students are among the more than 100 participants in the 2019 Asian Football Confederation Grassroots Football Day.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A participant in the 2019 Asian Football Confederation Grassroots Football Day kicks the ball to hit the cone.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Players battle for the ball during a small-sided game.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A father guides his son while the latter dribbles the ball around the cone.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the 2019 Asian Football Confederation Grassroots Football Day enjoy one of the activities in last weekend's event.

Raptors roll past Bucks to even East finals

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Sports

Kershaw gets 8 Ks, Dodgers beat Tampa Bay

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Seeded players march on

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Japan's Taki Adachi serves, while the CNMI's Sean Lee gets ready near the net during their doubles game against South Korea's Dong Gyu Oh and Seungik Park in the 2019 Northern Marianas Junior Championships yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

No upset was recorded, as doubles games in the 2019 Northern Marianas Junior Championships finally kicked off at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts with seeded players living up to expectations.

No. 6 June Jeong and Junhyun Lee and No. 7 Dong Gyu Oh and Seungik Park of South Korea, No. 5 Kenta Miyoshi and Kaita Odani of Japan, and No. 8 Hiroki Fujita of Japan and Dong Hwan Kim of South Korea notched the first four quarterfinals berth in the boys doubles.

Fujita and Kim swept Singapore's Matthew Johnstone and Australia's Qwyn Quittner, 6-4, 6-0, to make it to the Round of 8 where they will face either the CNMI pair of Ken Song and Jimin Woo or the South Korean duo of Je Won Jeon and Dogeon Park. Song and Woo won their all-CNMI duel against Daniel Kang and Jun Wang, 6-0, 6-1 to set up a second round match against the No. 2 seed Jeon and Dogeon Park.

Seungik Park and Oh also needed only two sets to eliminate the CNMI's Sean Lee and Taki Adachi. The South Koreans will meet in the quarterfinals the winner in the match between the unranked Masaki Kanehara and Yusen Sato of Japan and No. 4 Shu-Lun Chang and Hong-Lin Fu of Chinese-Taipei. Sato and Kanehara made it to the second round after ousting the CNMI's Isaac Heo and Andy Kim, 6-0, 6-1.

Miyoshi and Odani advanced to the quarterfinals after outlasting Jay Jones of the U.S. and South Korea's Sooyoung Yang, 4-6, 6-1, 13-11, and the Japanese pair will take on either South Korea's Yunseok Jang and Gyun Seop Sim or Max Kwok of Hong Kong and Brazil's Nikolas Herbert. Jeong and Lee, on the other hand, won in straight sets over China's Chibin Yang and Hongyi

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8 off to Oceania track meet

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tinian's Tyler Santos, seen here leading the 800m run in the All Schools meet, will represent the CNMI in next month's 2019 Oceania Athletics Championships in Queensland, Australia.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics has selected eight athletes to represent the CNMI in next month's 2019 Oceania Athletics Championships in Queensland, Australia.

Three-time Northern Marianas Sports Association Female Athlete of the Year Zarinae Sapong will lead Team CNMI in the tournament that will run from June 24 to 28 at the Townsville Sports Reserve. The sprinter will compete in the seniors' 100m and 200m runs and will be joined on the team by Leani Acosta, Jamie Pangelinan, Traven Quitugua, Gabriel Sappa, Oldie Joe Roligat, Theyvie They, Tinian's Tyler Santos.

Sappa will race in the seniors 100m and 200m runs, while the rest of the team are entered in the U18 and U20 competitions. Acosta and They are joining the U18's long jump event and the former is also participating in the high jump, while Quitugua is the Commonwealth's bet in the U20's 100m and 200m runs.

Roligat is running in a sprint event—100m—in the U18 age group and the long jump, while Santos will do the middle distance races—800m and 1,500m run. Pangelinan will be in the qualifying heats for the U18's 100m and 200m races.

The team's U18 members were selected based on their performance in the 2019 Public School System/ McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships held early this month and in the training sessions under coach Elias Rangamar.

Pangelinan and Quitugua dominated the 100m and 200m in the

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TanHoldings, MP United prevail

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

TanHoldings Footbal Club and MP United Football Club recorded contrasting wins in the masters division of the 2019 Dove Spring Women's Futsal League last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
TanHoldings Football Club's Victoria Camama, left, checks on her teammate before kicking the ball, while Matansa Football Club-2's Noi Horey stays close in the play during their first meeting in the masters division of the 2019 Dove Spring Women's Futsal League at the TSL Sports Complex.

MP United slipped past Kanoa Football Club, 3-2, while TanHoldings eased past Matansa Football Club-2, 3-0. Matansa-1 joined last weekend's winners circle after a free victory (via forfeiture) over Topnotch.

MP United found its target early, scoring all its goals in the first half to survive Kanoa's comeback in the second.

Aimee Quito Weiss hit the board in the fourth minute to put Kanoa on top, but not for long, as Merlie

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